



**ACTION
COMICS**



GUEST-
STARRING:



GREEN ARROW & THE ATOM

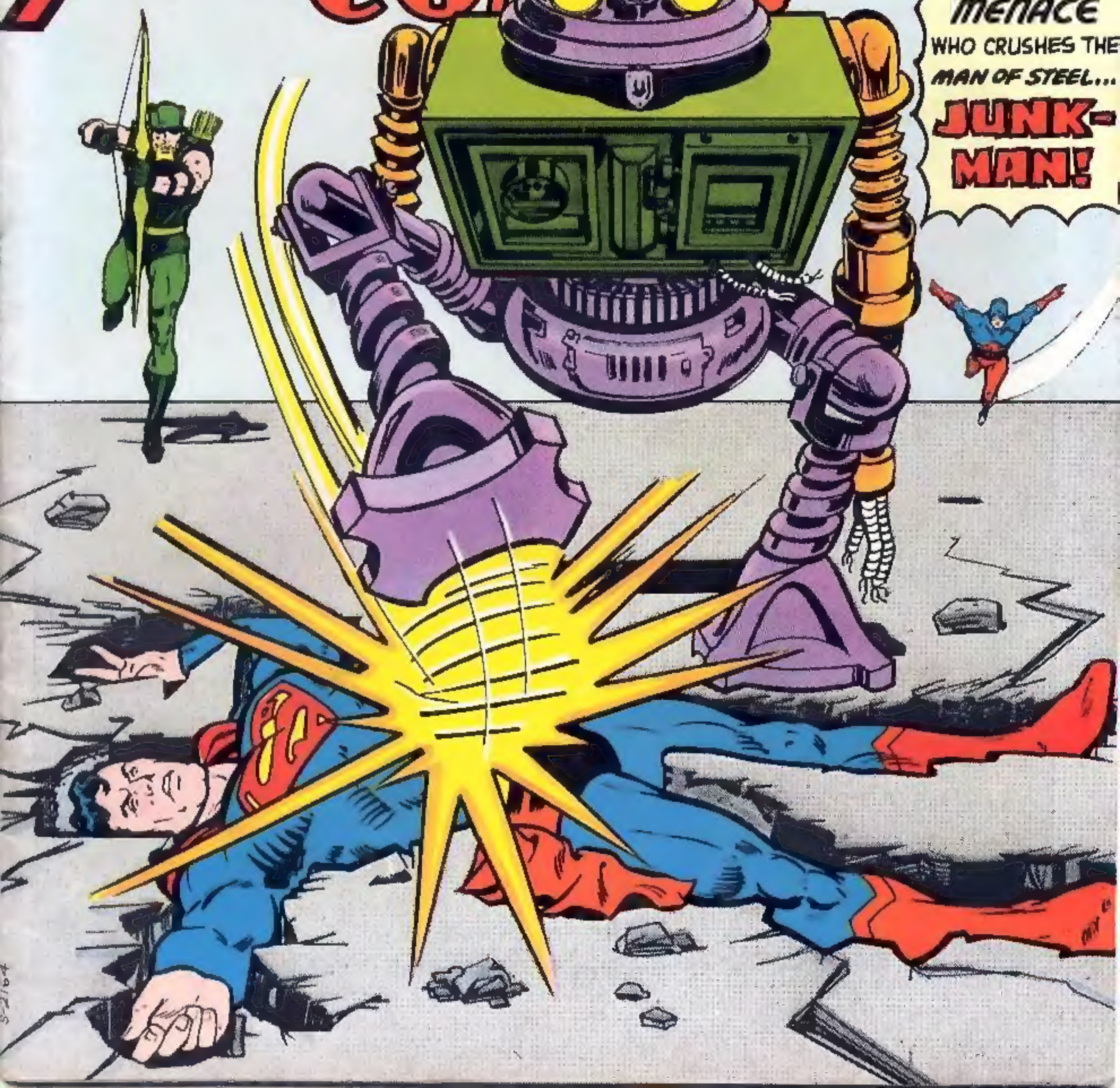
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NO. 455
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SUPERMAN'S

ACTION COMICS

MEET THE
**METAL
MENACE**
WHO CRUSHES THE
MAN OF STEEL...
**JUNK-
MAN!**





HE CAN CHANGE THE COURSE
OF MIGHTY RIVERS!
BEND STEEL IN HIS BARE HANDS!
JUGGLE PLANETS LIKE BILLIARD
BALLS!

SUPERMAN
GUEST-STARRING
the ACTION-PLUS HEROES--

**GREEN
ARROW**

and
The **ATOM**

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF WE COULD FIND A
PRACTICAL USE FOR THE HEAPS OF RUBBISH
WHICH MAR OUR LANDSCAPE? MOVIE
PRODUCER MORTY RIVERS CAME UP WITH
WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A COLOSSAL
SCHEME--PUTTING BITS OF JUNK TOGETHER
TO CREATE A NEW FILM STAR! BUT THE
PRODUCT OF "YOUNG JUNKENSTEIN'S"
GENIUS PROVED MORE THAN A MATCH FOR
SUPERMAN HIMSELF, WHEN THE MAN OF
STEEL MET...

"JUNKMAN-- the RECYCLED SUPERSTAR!"

ART BY: CURT SWAN and TEX BLAISDELL

STORY BY:
ELLIOT S. MAGGIN

EDITING BY: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

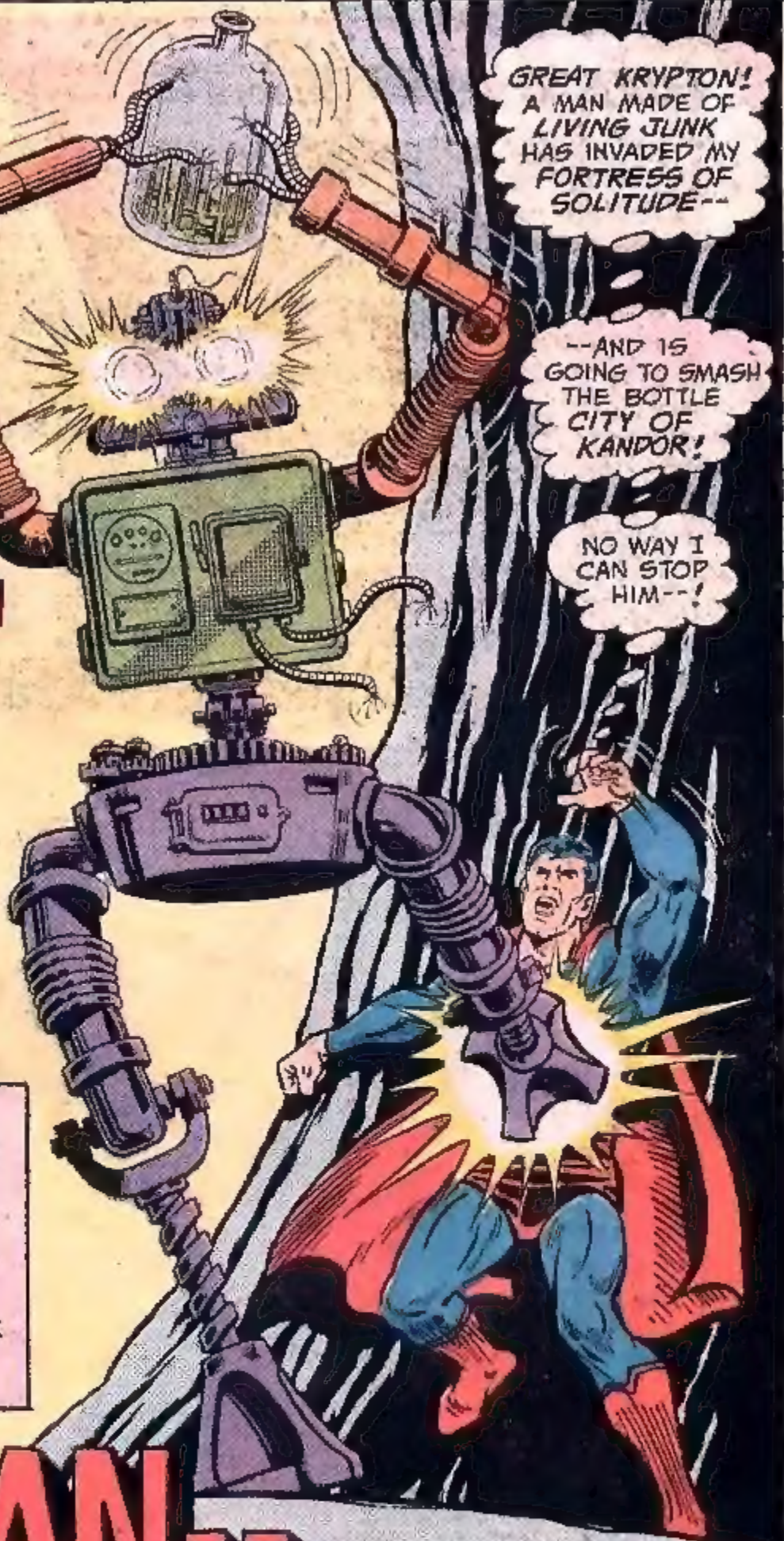
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GREAT KRYPTON!
A MAN MADE OF
LIVING JUNK
HAS INVADDED MY
FORTRESS OF
SOLITUDE--

--AND IS
GOING TO SMASH
THE BOTTLE
CITY OF
KANDOR!

NO WAY I
CAN STOP
HIM--!



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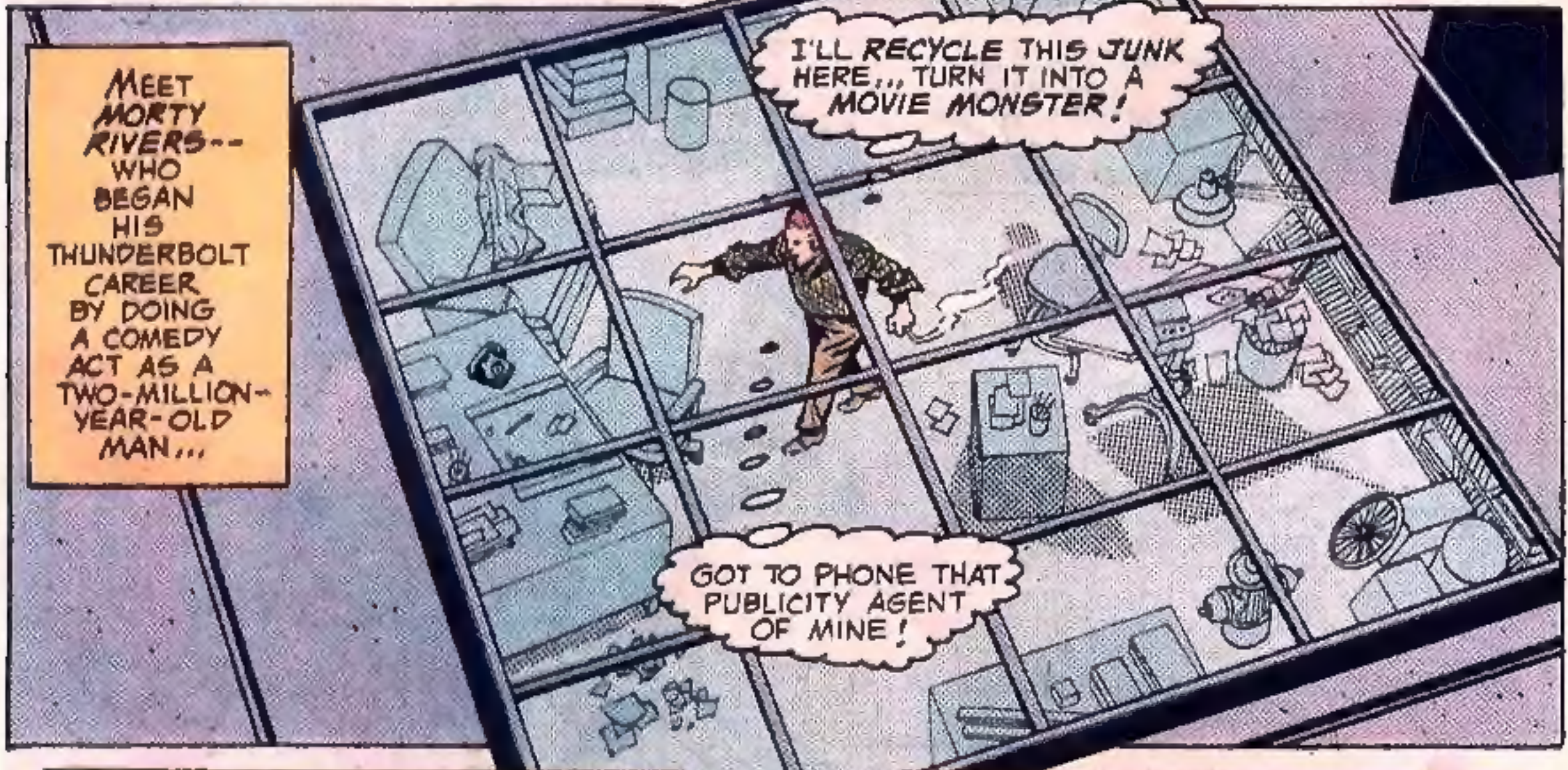
EUREKA!

I KNEW I WATCHED
TELEVISION EVERY
WAKING HOUR FOR
A REASON--!



...NOW, MRS. PRESSKEY... YOU CAN
KEEP THE SACK OF MARBLES AND
THE \$1,000 BILL INSIDE, OR YOU
CAN TRADE FOR--

ONE OF THE
COSTUMES WORN
BY SOMEONE ON
THAT TV GAME
SHOW HAS INSPIRED
ME TO BUILD A
MOVIE SUPERSTAR!



I'LL RECYCLE THIS JUNK
HERE... TURN IT INTO A
MOVIE MONSTER!

GOT TO PHONE THAT
PUBLICITY AGENT
OF MINE!

MEET
MORTY
RIVERS--
WHO
BEGAN
HIS
THUNDERBOLT
CAREER
BY DOING
A COMEDY
ACT AS A
TWO-MILLION-
YEAR-OLD
MAN...

NOW MORTY SITS AT THE HEAD OF AN
ENTERTAINMENT EMPIRE--MAKING
COMMERCIALS, PRODUCING MOVIES
AND MORE...

AND BY THE WAY, YOU'VE PROBABLY MET
MORTY'S PUBLICITY AGENT--A GENTLE-
MAN FROM STAR CITY NAMED OLIVER
QUEEN...



HELLO? ...
HELLO,
OLIVER!

I'VE JUST HAD
THIS MONUMENTAL
IDEA FOR MY NEXT
MOVIE! FIND A
REPORTER--ANY
BIG TELEVISION
REPORTER--TELL
HIM--

LISTEN, MORTY--
I'VE GOT THIS
TV REPORTER
FRIEND IN
METROPOLIS
WHO'D KNOCK YOUR
SOCKS OFF...

...YOU BET YOUR
TEN PER CENT
YOU'VE HEARD OF
HIM--HIS NAME'S
CLARK KENT!



BUT AT THAT MOMENT, CLARK KENT IS OTHERWISE OCCUPIED--AS SUPERMAN...IN HIS FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...

WELL, ATOM--
WANT ME
TO SHOOT
YOU INTO
KANDOR
WITH MY
MICRO-WAVE
TUNNEL, OR--

PLEASE! I'LL DO IT
UNDER MY OWN POWER
IF YOU DON'T MIND,
SUPERMAN--

--AND ONCE I
CRAWL INTO
THIS TINY
PARACHUTE...

...ALL I NEED
IS A DROP-IN-
THE-BOTTLE!

KANDOR,
HERE I
COME!

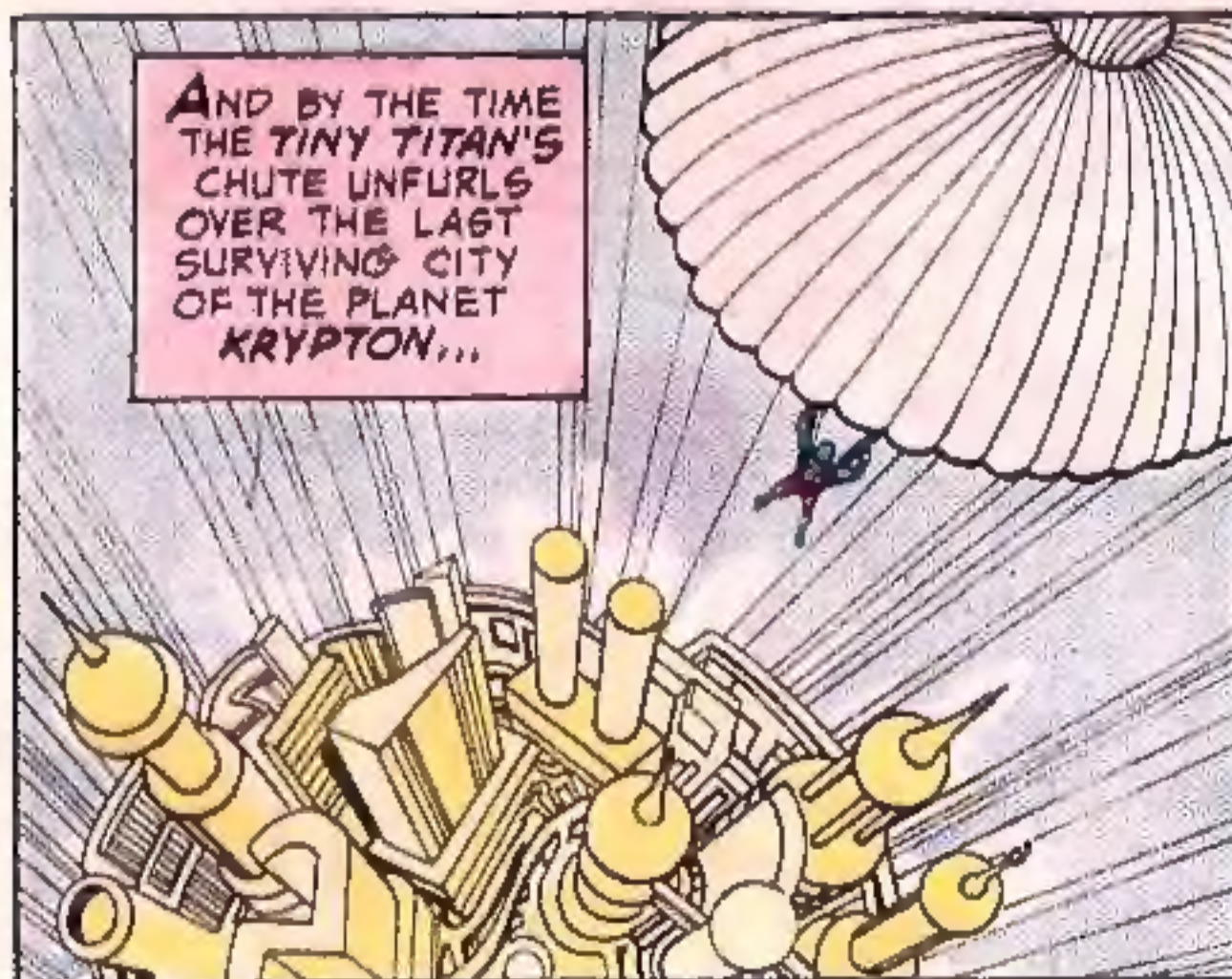
GOOD LUCK
WITH YOUR
RESEARCH,
ATOM!



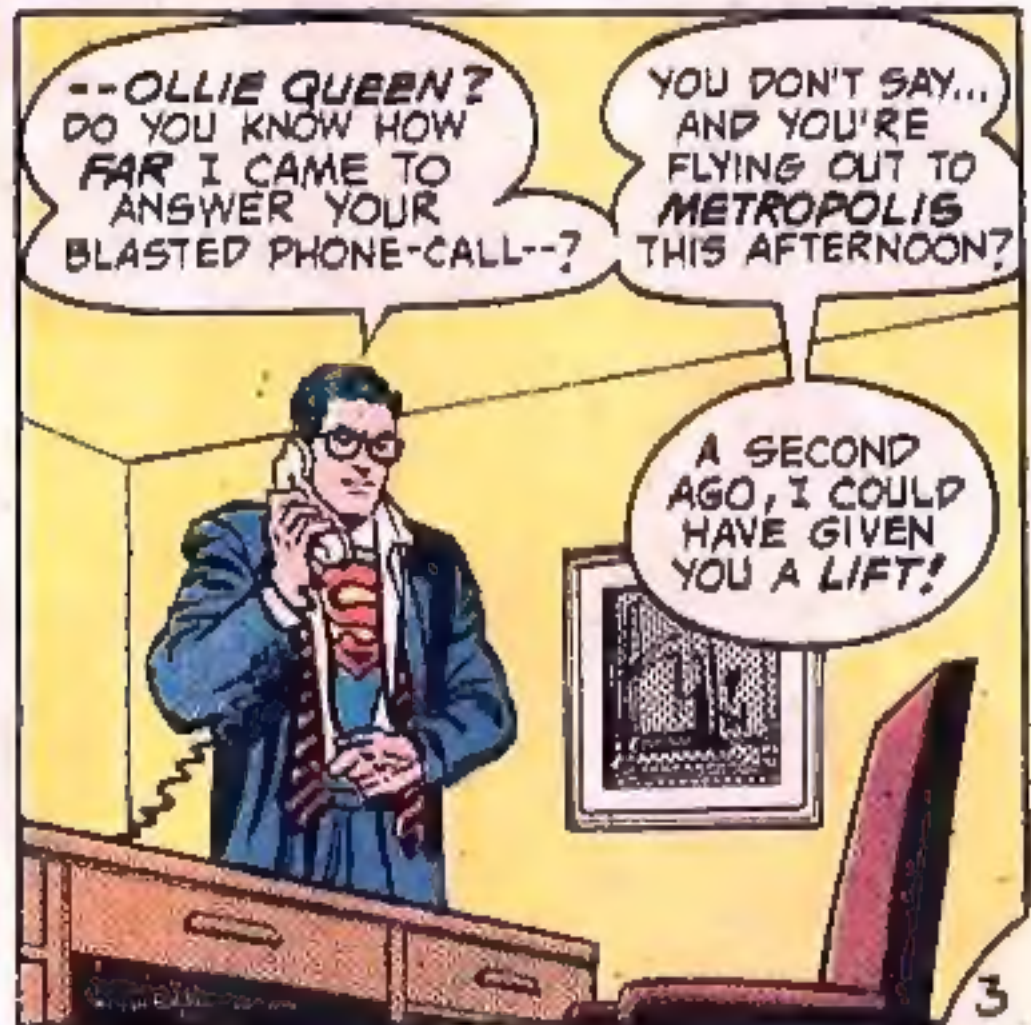
MEANTIME, I'VE GOT
A PHONE-CALL
TO CATCH!



THAT SIGNAL INDICATED
THE PHONE'S RINGING IN
CLARK KENT'S OFFICE--
3,000 MILES AWAY!



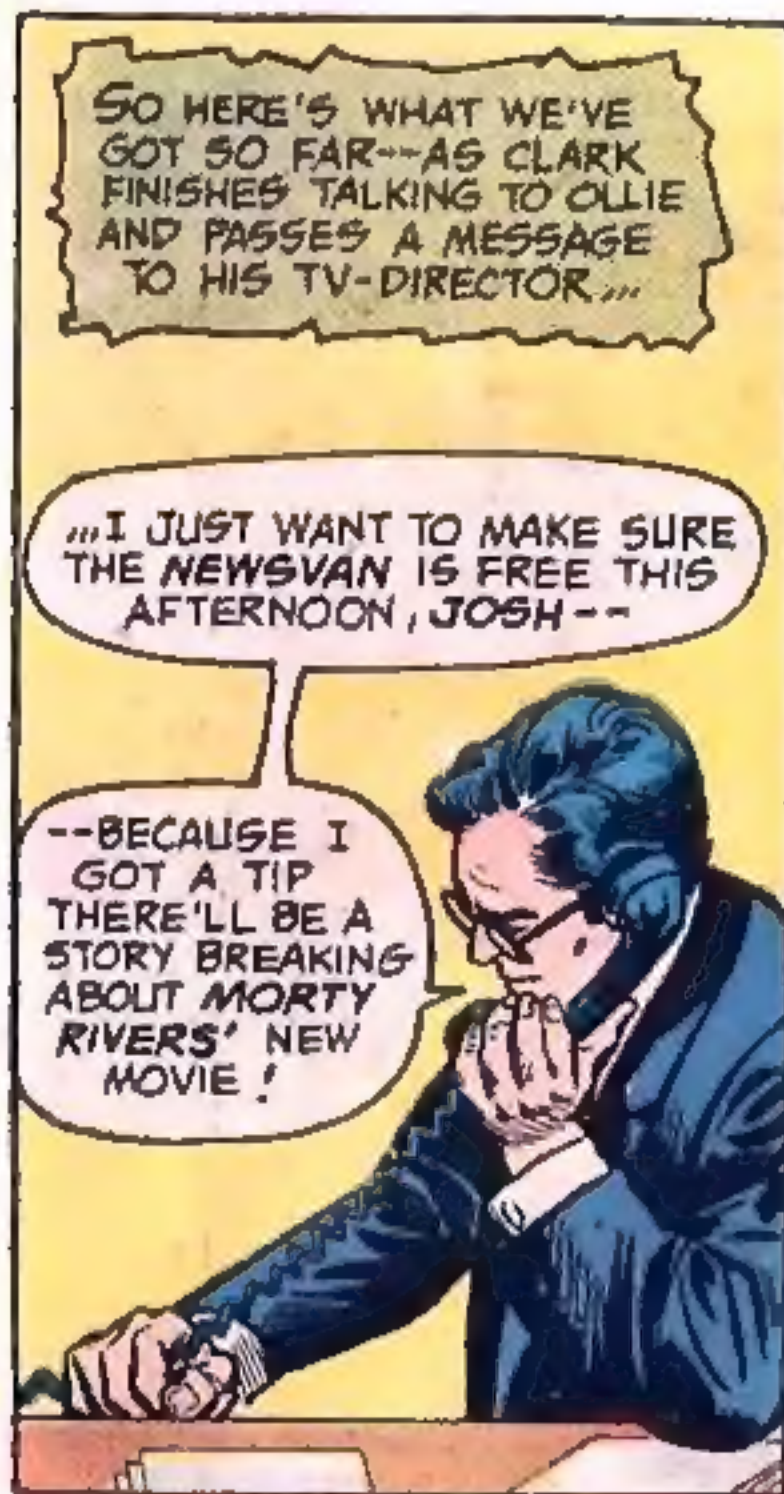
AND BY THE TIME
THE TINY TITAN'S
CHUTE UNFURLS
OVER THE LAST
SURVIVING CITY
OF THE PLANET
KRYPTON...



--OLLIE QUEEN?
DO YOU KNOW HOW
FAR I CAME TO
ANSWER YOUR
BLASTED PHONE-CALL--?

YOU DON'T SAY...
AND YOU'RE
FLYING OUT TO
METROPOLIS
THIS AFTERNOON?

A SECOND
AGO, I COULD
HAVE GIVEN
YOU A LIFT!





OLIVER--
YOU FLEW DOWN
FROM STAR CITY
JUST TO SEE
THIS...?

AND CLARK KENT--
I WATCH YOUR
NEWS SHOW
EVERY DAY...
ON THREE OR FOUR
TV'S AT A TIME!

COME IN--COME IN--



--AND MEET THE
SUPERSTAR
OF MY NEXT
MOVIE!

HOLY
HANNAH--!

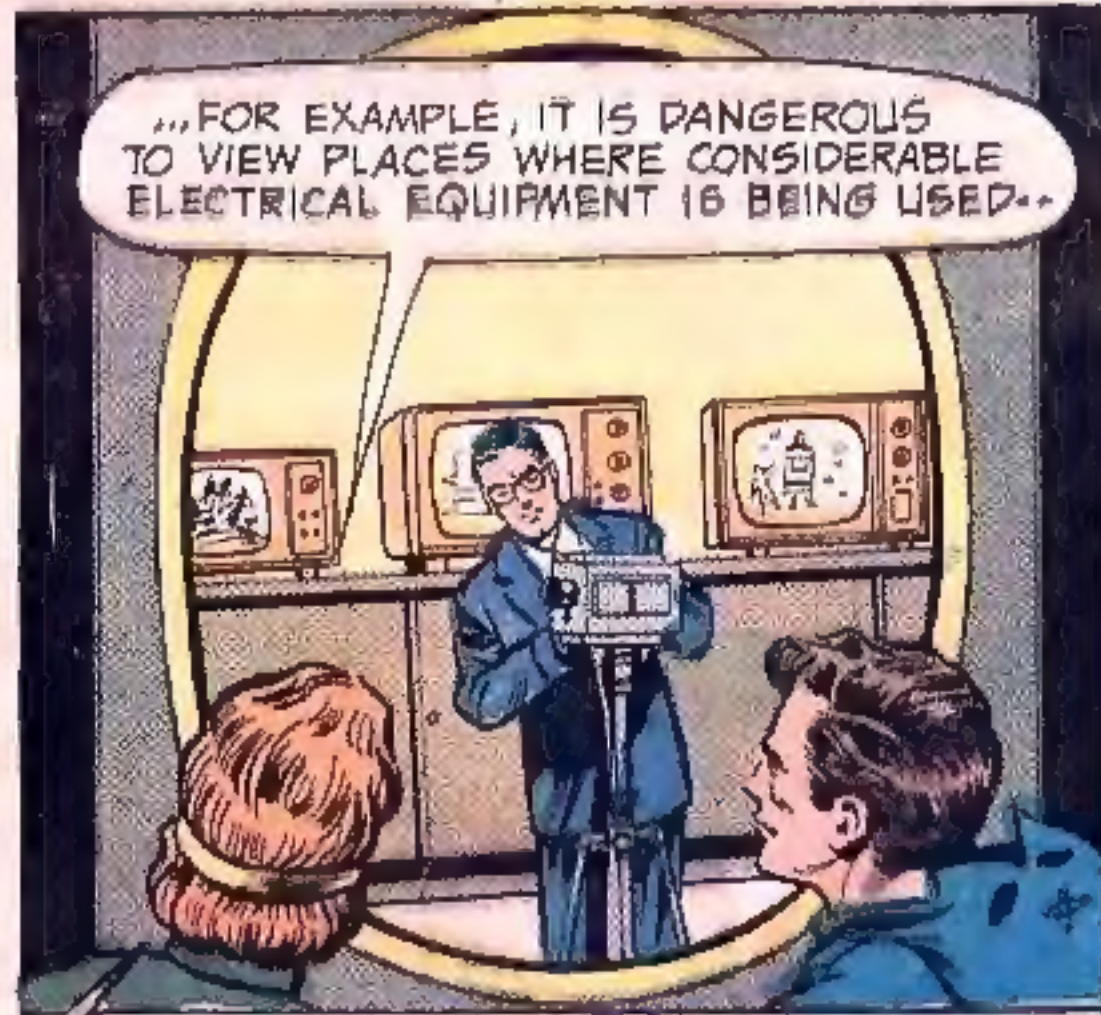
GREAT
GALAXIES--!



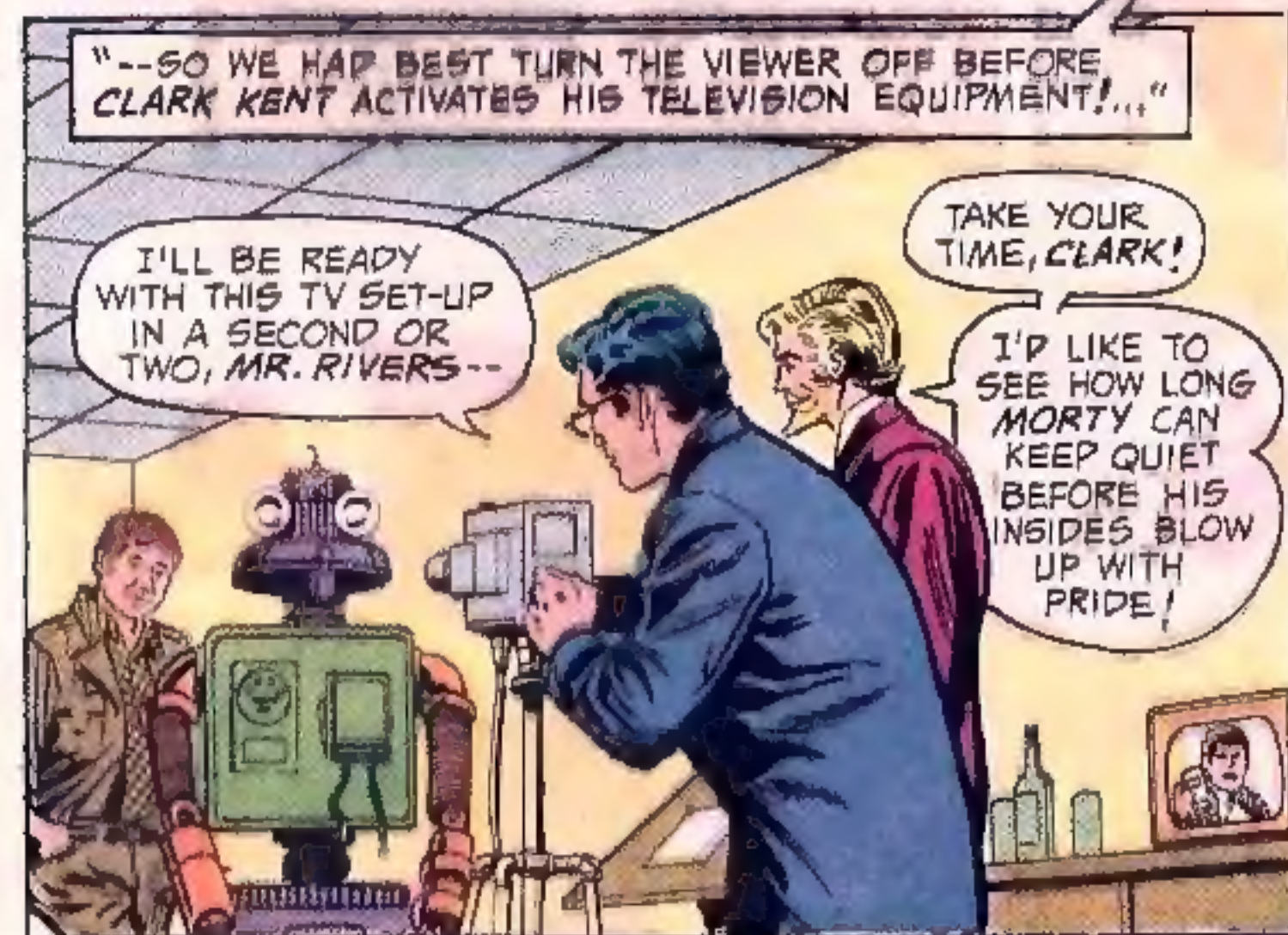
MEANWHILE, IN THE TINIEST CITY ON EARTH...

THIS IS REMARKABLE,
RAD-ZEE...YOU CAN PICK
UP SCENES OF EVENTS
ANYWHERE ON EARTH
LIKE THIS?

WE HAVEN'T KNOCKED
ALL THE PROBLEMS
OUT YET, ATOM...



...FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS DANGEROUS
TO VIEW PLACES WHERE CONSIDERABLE
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED...



"--SO WE HAD BEST TURN THE VIEWER OFF BEFORE
CLARK KENT ACTIVATES HIS TELEVISION EQUIPMENT!..."

I'LL BE READY
WITH THIS TV SET-UP
IN A SECOND OR
TWO, MR. RIVERS--

TAKE YOUR
TIME, CLARK!

I'D LIKE TO
SEE HOW LONG
MORTY CAN
KEEP QUIET
BEFORE HIS
INSIDES BLOW
UP WITH
PRIDE!



AS A KANDORIAN HAND
THROWS THE "OFF" SWITCH...

NOW LET'S GET ON TO
THOSE SIZE EXPERIMENTS,
SHALL WE?

KLUK

Hi sssssssssssssssssss

CRACKLE

CLARK!
MORTY!

LOOK OUT!

HSSSSS

I CAN'T HAVE
PEOPLE GRABBING
AT --

SSSS
CRACKLE
POP

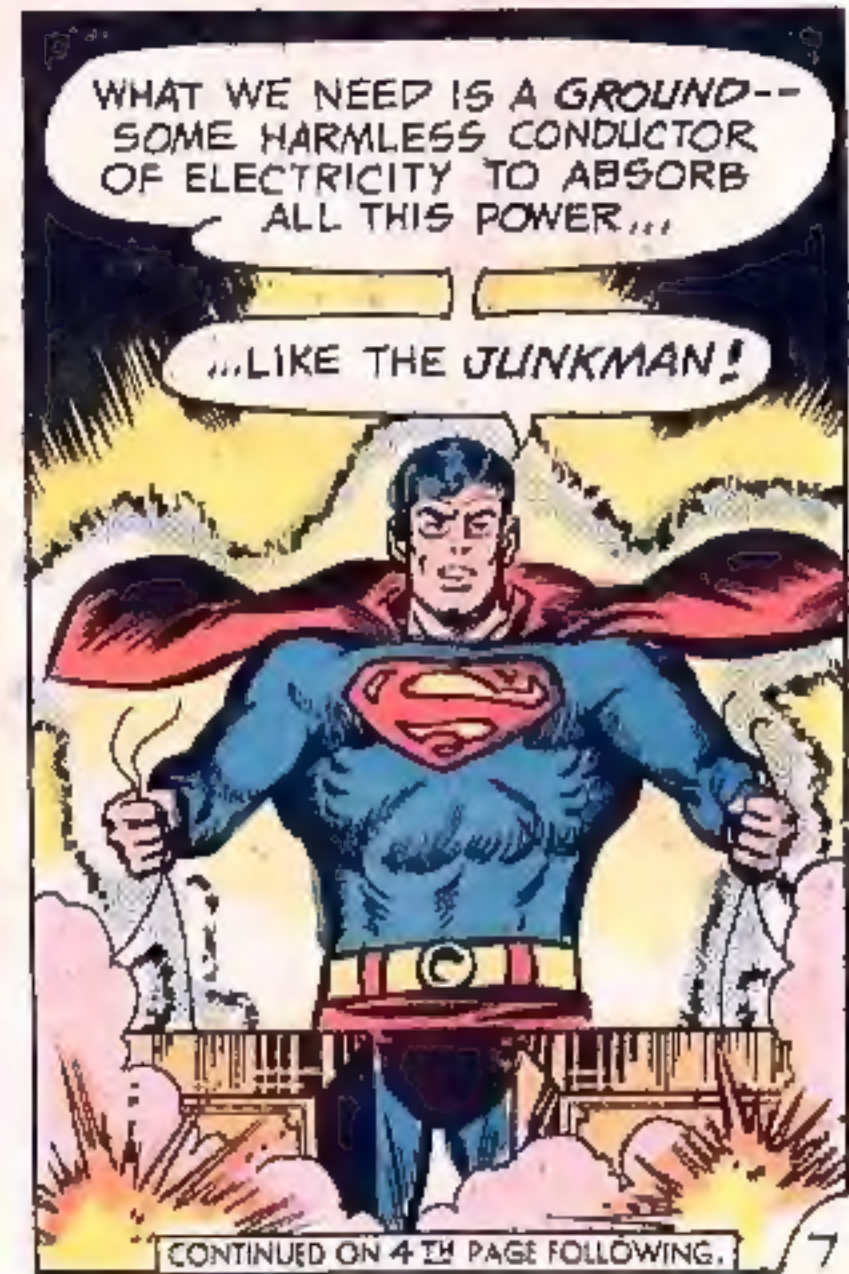
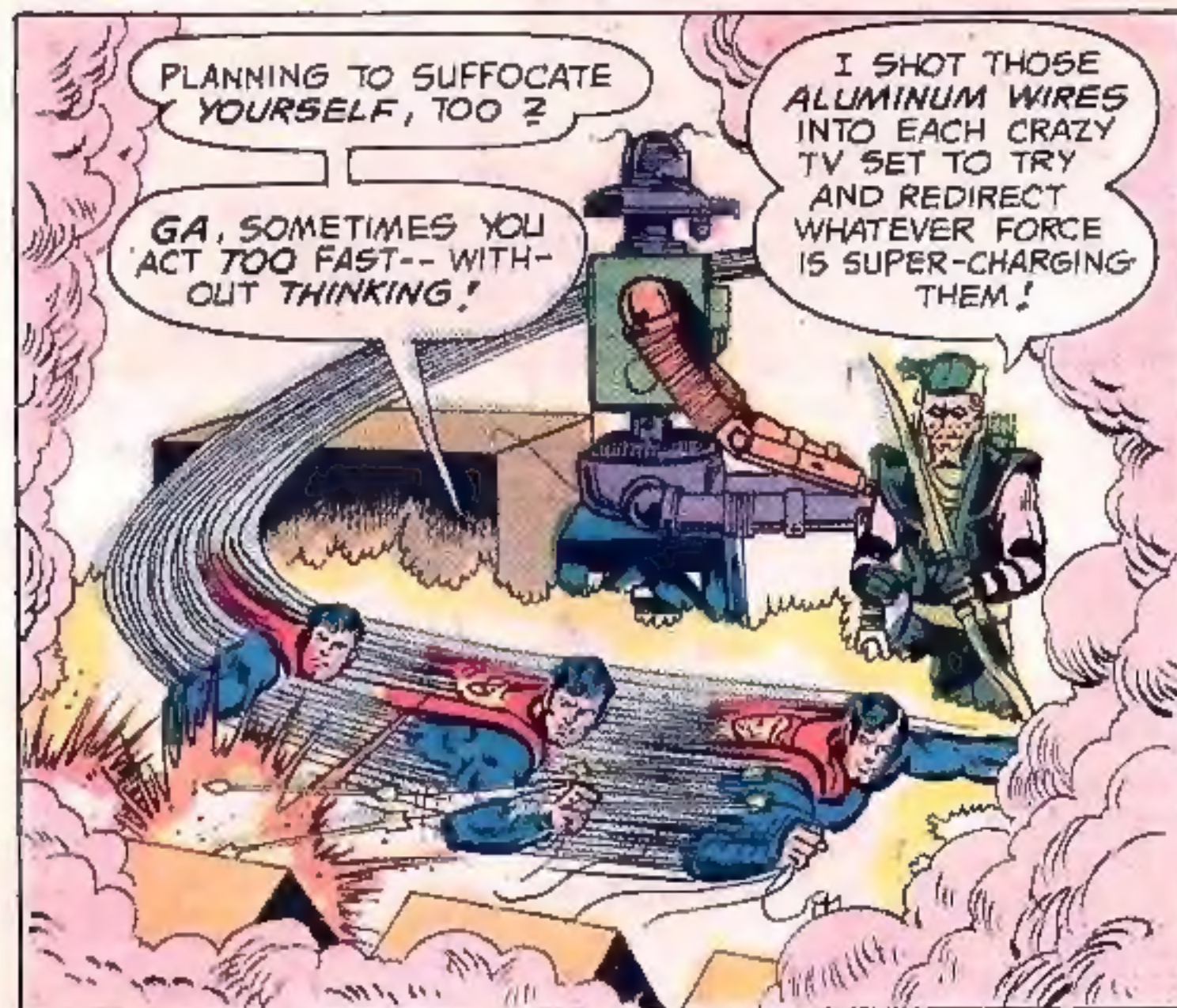
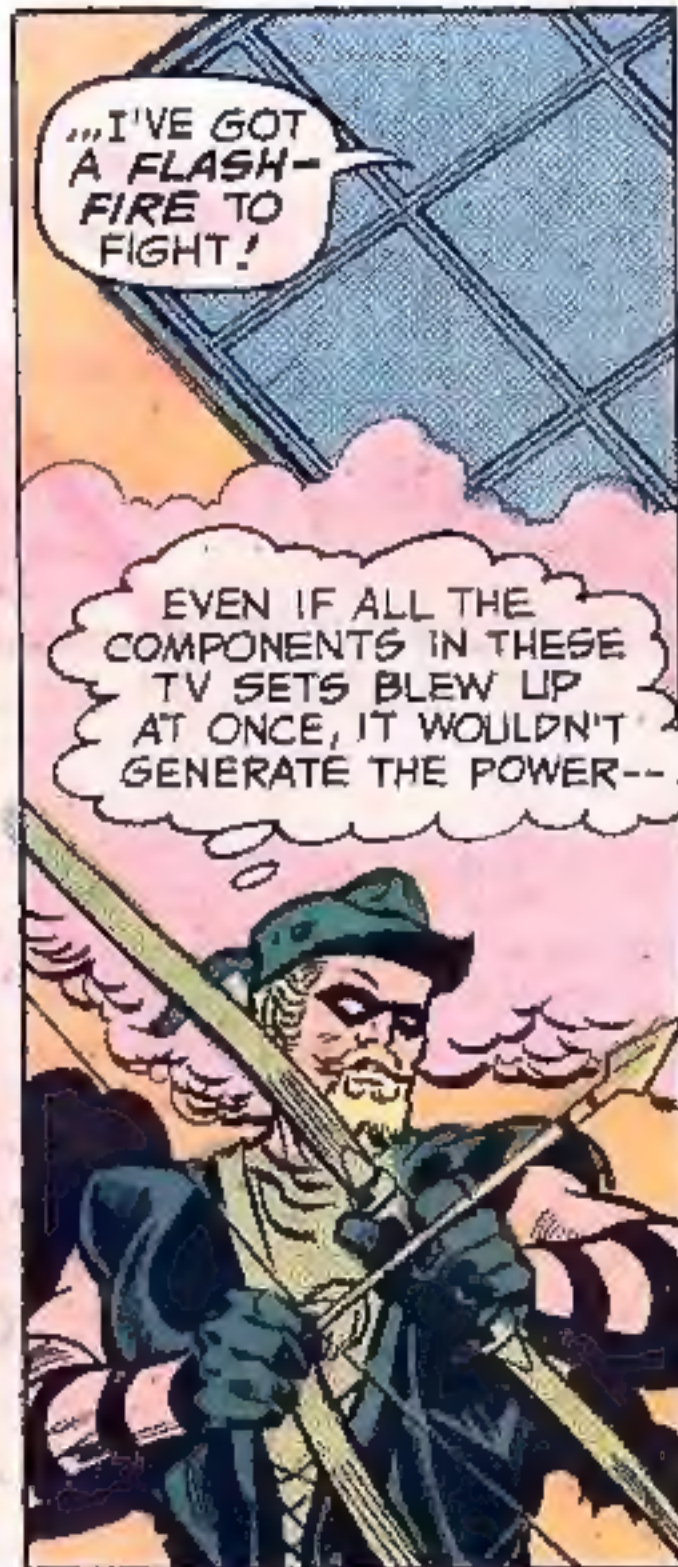
SAVE US!
SOMEBODY
HELP US!...
SUPERMAN!

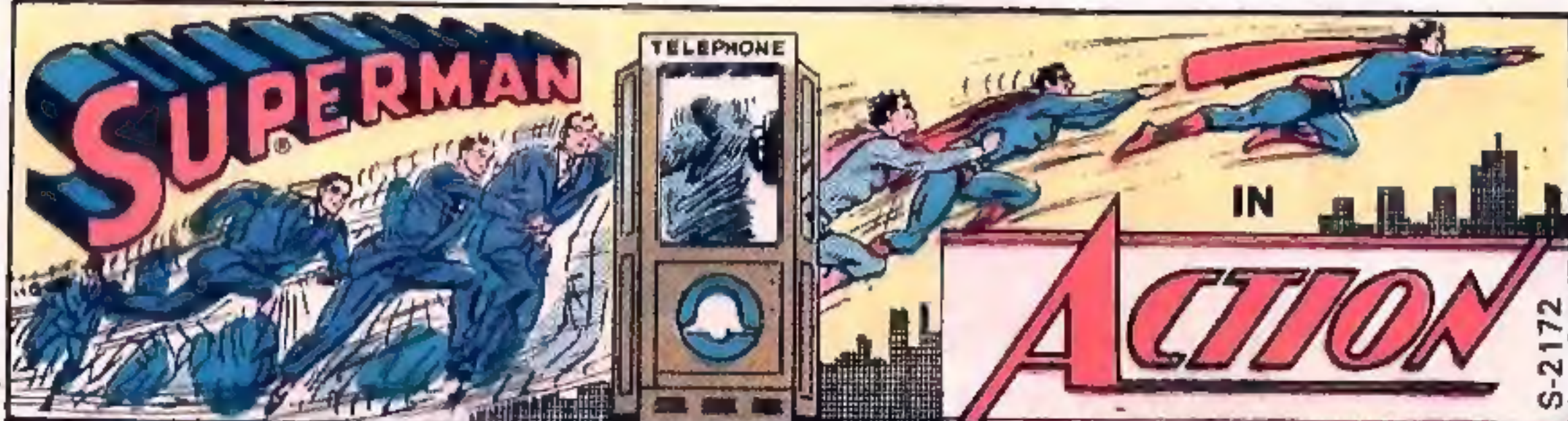
GRRF...
SUPERMAN--?!

--UNGFPH!

A pink, cloud-like sound effect with the word "POOF!" written in a stylized, bubbly font.

WHAT'S GOING ON?





c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Nelson:

New Year's Eve, 1974, I find myself speeding through the dark and beautiful—but lethal—streets of New York, in a car which was destined to be wrecked the next day. Two of my companions, Legion Outpost guru Harry Broertjes and Update columnist Jay Zilber, have visited Jim Shooter on their way here, and now they begin to relate a tale about a stranger who purchases a bridge very much like the one we are crossing.

It's the story of Clark Kent and a motorcycle mishap, a country girl and an eccentric fashion designer, the most unusual of Superman's battles and a talking tree. It sounded delightful—but still, a talking tree!? "Don't worry," says Jay, "Jim Shooter can tell it far better than we can..."

And so he can—and has, in Action #451 (The Great Super-Hero Contest). The naive and innocent Ben Aldain is the sort of character one seldom meets in comics any more, and I find myself wishing the very best for him and Melody.

So what if Melody's history was not the most original and believable in the world? Ben's was, original—and yet utterly believable, right down to that talking tree! This was definitely the best Superman story of the year.

Green Arrow is also moving forward, albeit more slowly, in quality. I think Elliot Maggin is trying too hard to make every chapter complete in itself. The last one ended with Black Canary telling Davy, "You owe us an explanation!" Is it reasonable that she and GA would let him waste his time playing the lyre (in "The Day the Dreaming Dies") before they got it? (Oh, I caught the similarity of younger Tenzer to a certain namesake who also brought down giants, used a sling and played the lyre—but how could he be the old man we know died in 1 Kings, 2?)

Rich Morrissey, Framingham, Mass.

(Correction—the Biblical David played a HARP. Just one difference between him and our Davy!—E.N.B.)

.....

Dear Editor:

Action #451 was an incredibly "eucch" issue. Although I'm happy to see Jim Shooter scripting Superman stories again, his recent work on the Legion of Super-Heroes must have depleted his normally well-stocked imagination. The entire absurd sequence with Superman, Ben Aldain and that missing bridge was nothing but a lengthy interlude which coupled the splash scene to the real "meat" of the story, the "meat" being six pages of

Supes deliberately looking bad to make the other guy look good. Actually, he merely succeeded in making Shooter look worst of all. So the Man of Steel succeeded in reuniting the lovers—but for what? Ben is an alien, destined to live for centuries and someday be an important man on his own planet. Melody is a dense little country hick who'll be dead before Ben is even middle-aged. You call that a happy ending? I call it "Love Story—1975!"

The Green Arrow/Black Canary serials have been deteriorating, but "The Day the Dreaming Dies" was the proverbial straw which broke the camel's back. There's simply no room for a synopsis, yet the lack of one this issue left the story a shambles of confusing interplay. I think it's time you separated GA and BC for a while; two heroes sharing five pages don't accomplish much.

Scott Gibson, Evergreen, Colo.

(Separate GA and the Bird-Lady? You might as well separate BATMAN and ROB—no, they ARE split; Sonny and ... hmmm ... would you settle for Tony Orlando and Dawn?—E.N.B.)

.....

Dear Editor:

"My name is Davy singing songs ..." (Action #451)

"David took an harp and played ..." (1 Samuel, 16:23)

"... Four murders ... with rocks and a sling!" (Action #451)

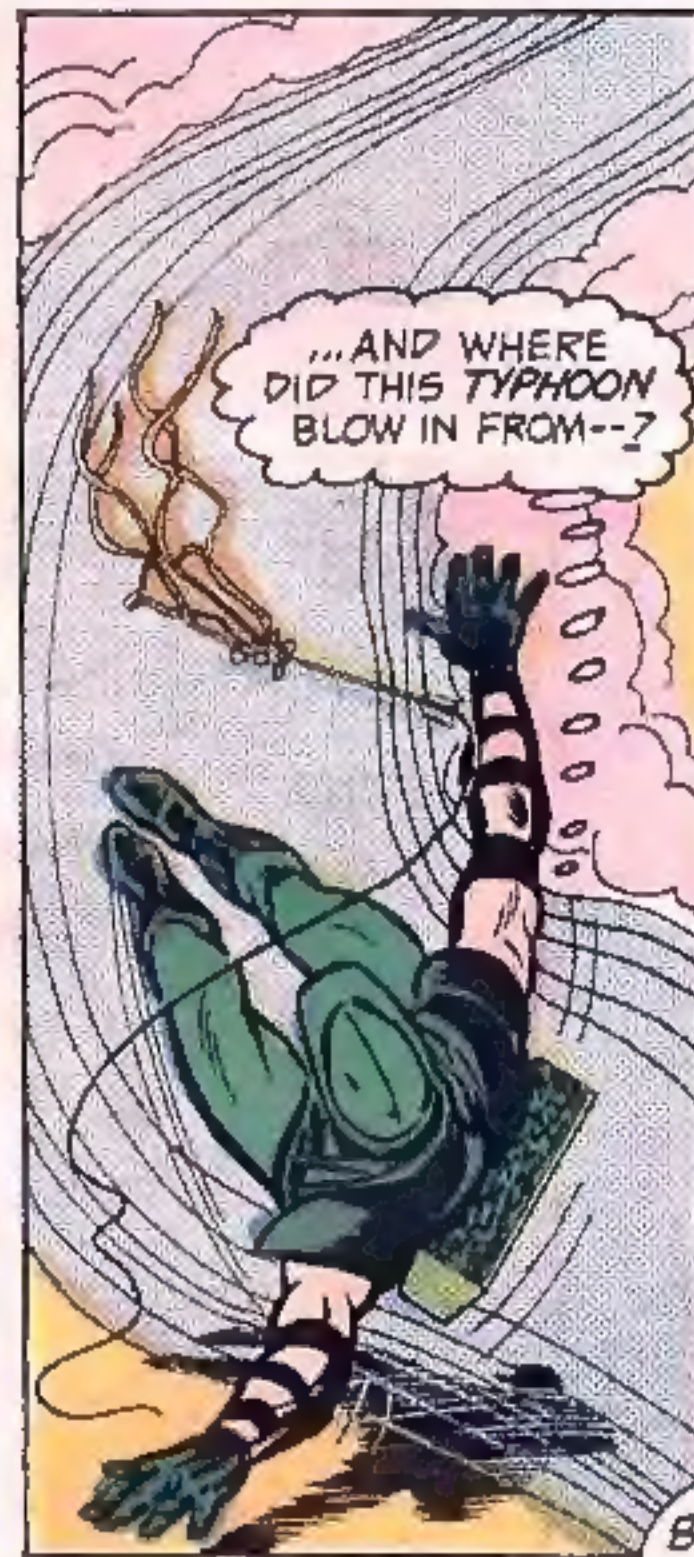
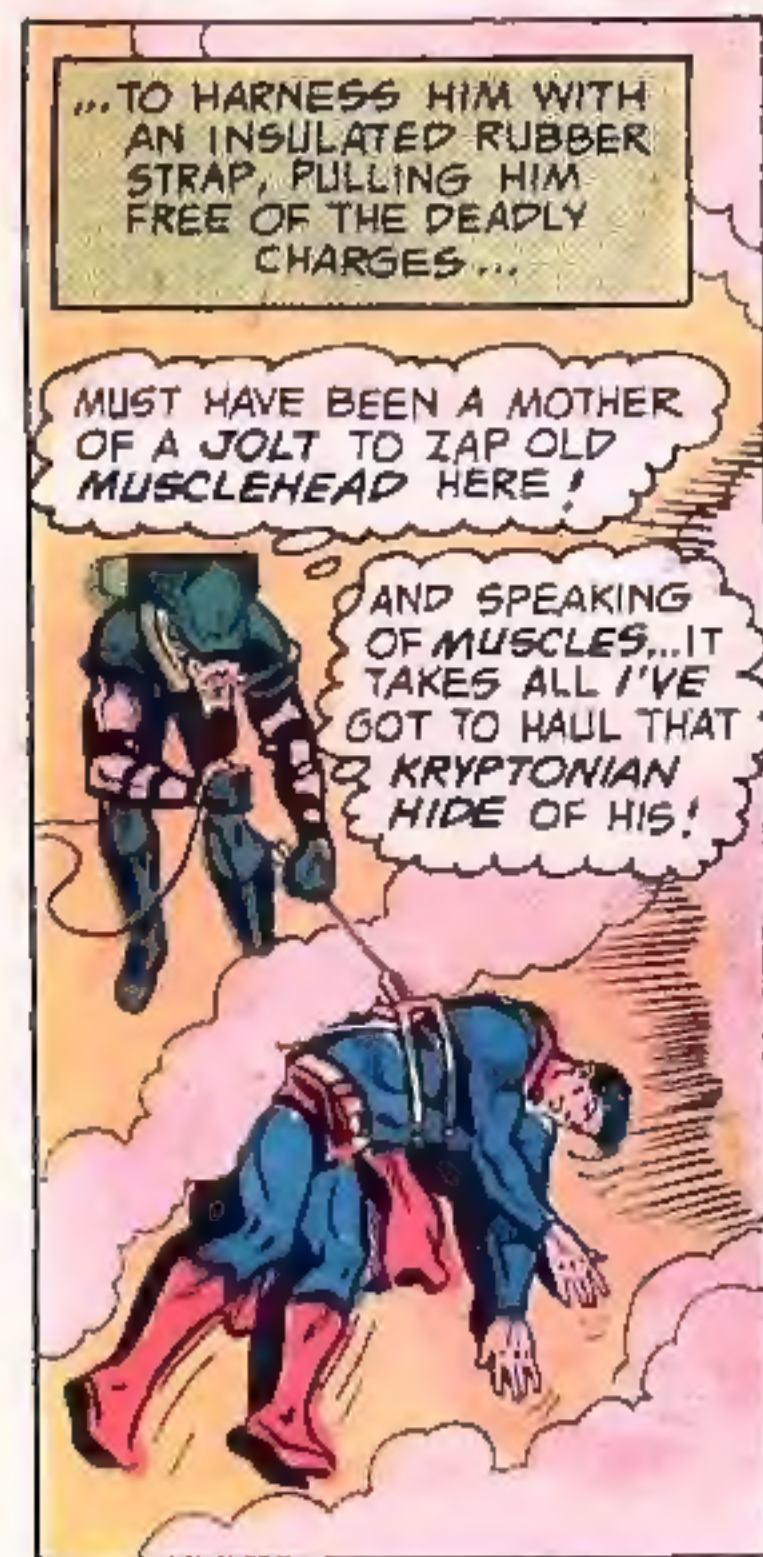
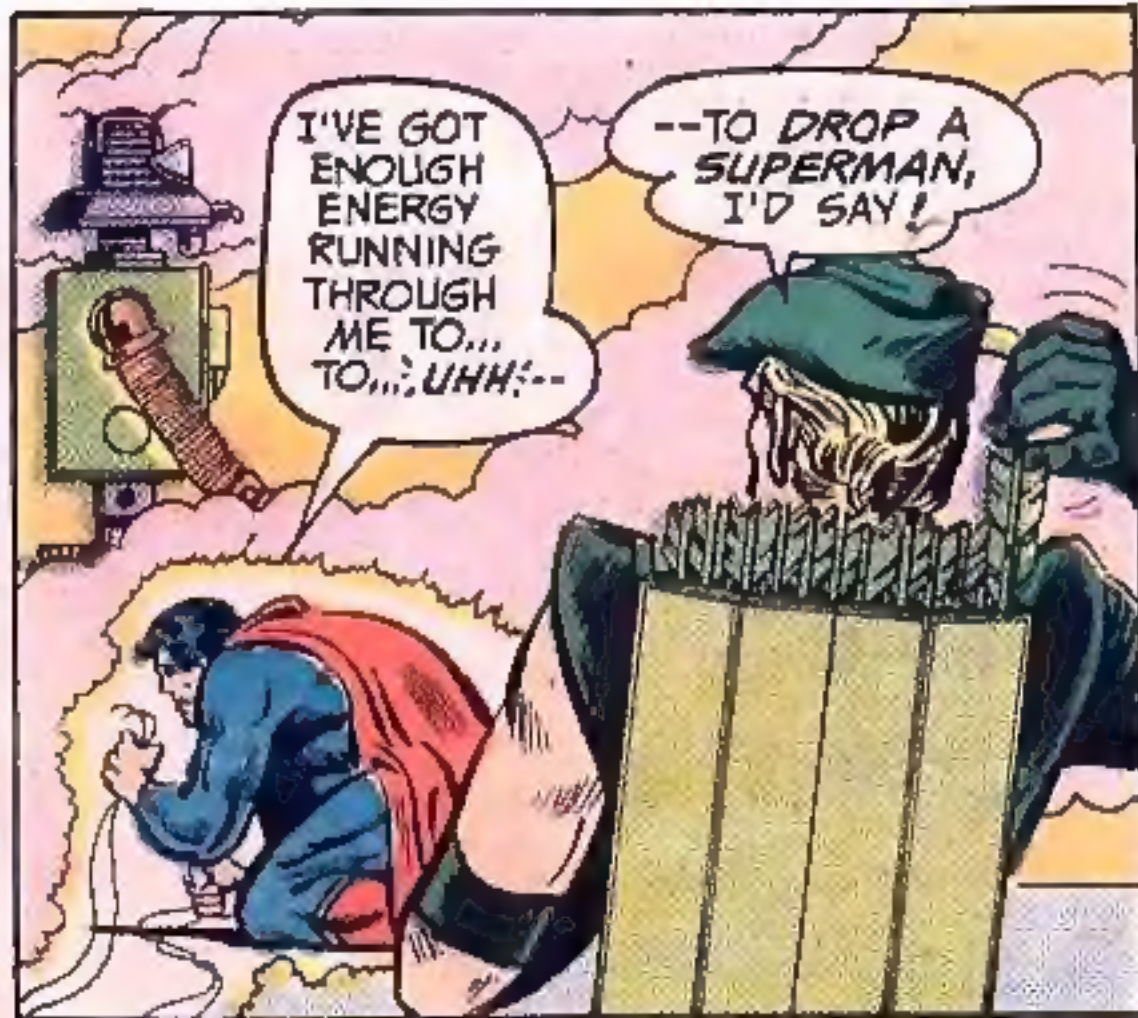
"And David put his hand in his bag and took thence a stone and slang it and smote the Philistine in the forehead ..." (1 Samuel, 17:49)

Elliot Maggin's latest Green Arrow-Black Canary story reads like something from the Book of Samuel with strains of Phil Ochs' "I Ain't A-Marchin' Anymore" playing in the background. The result: an installment which simultaneously explains some of the loose ends from last issue's "Gremlin" mystery while giving us a few more questions to ponder upon. Believe me, I expect a dynamite conclusion next issue.

And let's not overlook Jim Shooter's return to Superman. Jim gave us a new type of story in which Superman stands peripheral to the main plot, a human drama played out by protagonists not attached to the Man of Steel's traditional *dramatis personae*. My only complaint was the dialogue Jim assigned Ben and Melody. Just because "they truly are in love" is no reason for them to sound like they've just stepped off the "Good Ship Lollypop!"

Ray Engelberg, Bronx, N.Y.

(Maybe that was the MELODY he had in mind. —E. NELSON BRIDWELL)



...A HUMAN TYPHOON NAMED SUPERMAN--!

HE'S CRASHING
THROUGH MY
ROOF! WHY
WOULD--?

OOOH!!
HIS UPDRAFT
IS SUCKING
UP ALL MY
SUPPLIES--
AND MY
TELEVISIONS!

NOW HE'S SUSPENDING
ALL THE TV SETS IN
MIDAIR--WITH THOSE
LIVE WIRES DANGLING
FROM THEM--!

AND QUICKER THAN
MORTY'S EYE CAN
FOLLOW, THE MAN OF
MIGHT PLOPS BACK
INTO THE STUDIO...

...TO PICK
UP ONE
MORE
ITEM..

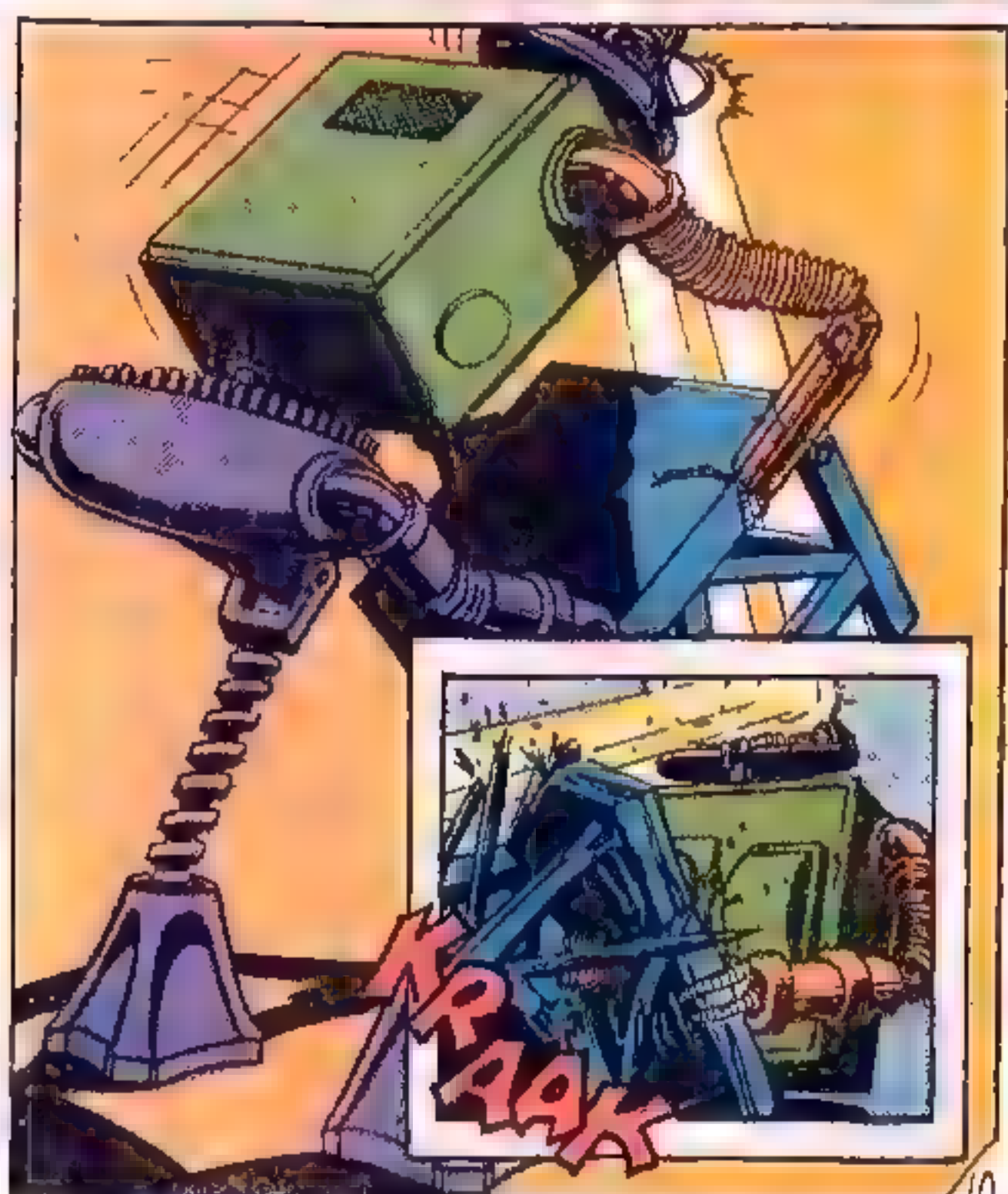
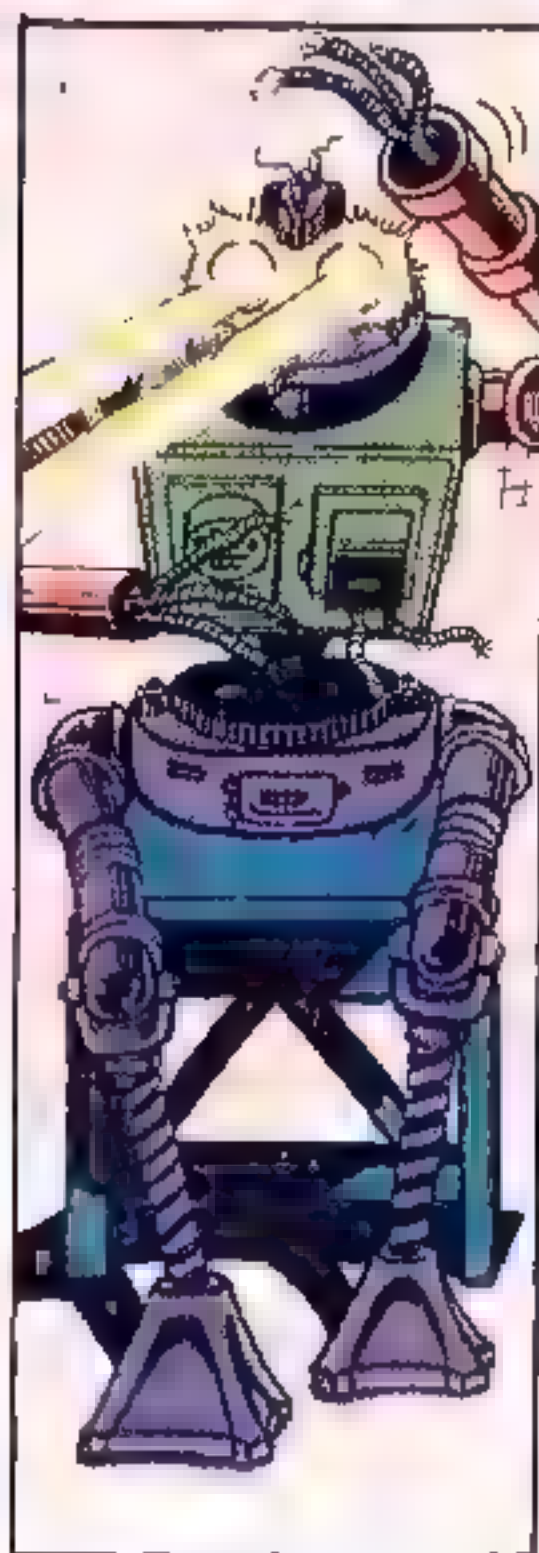
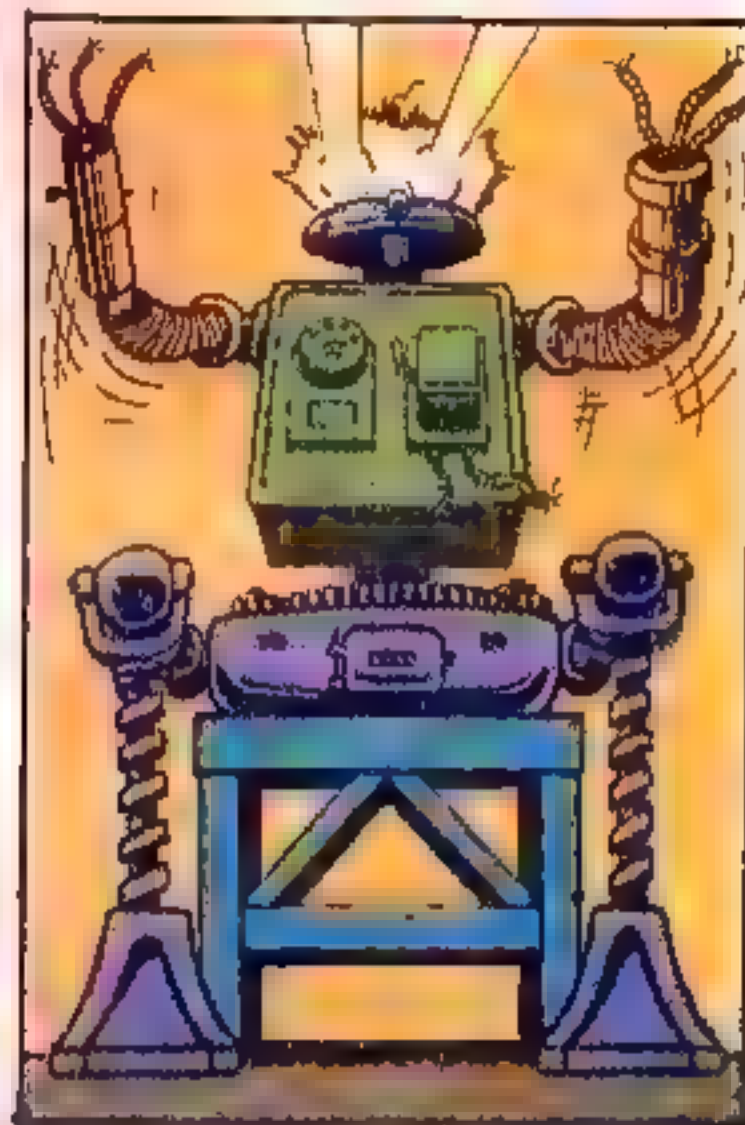
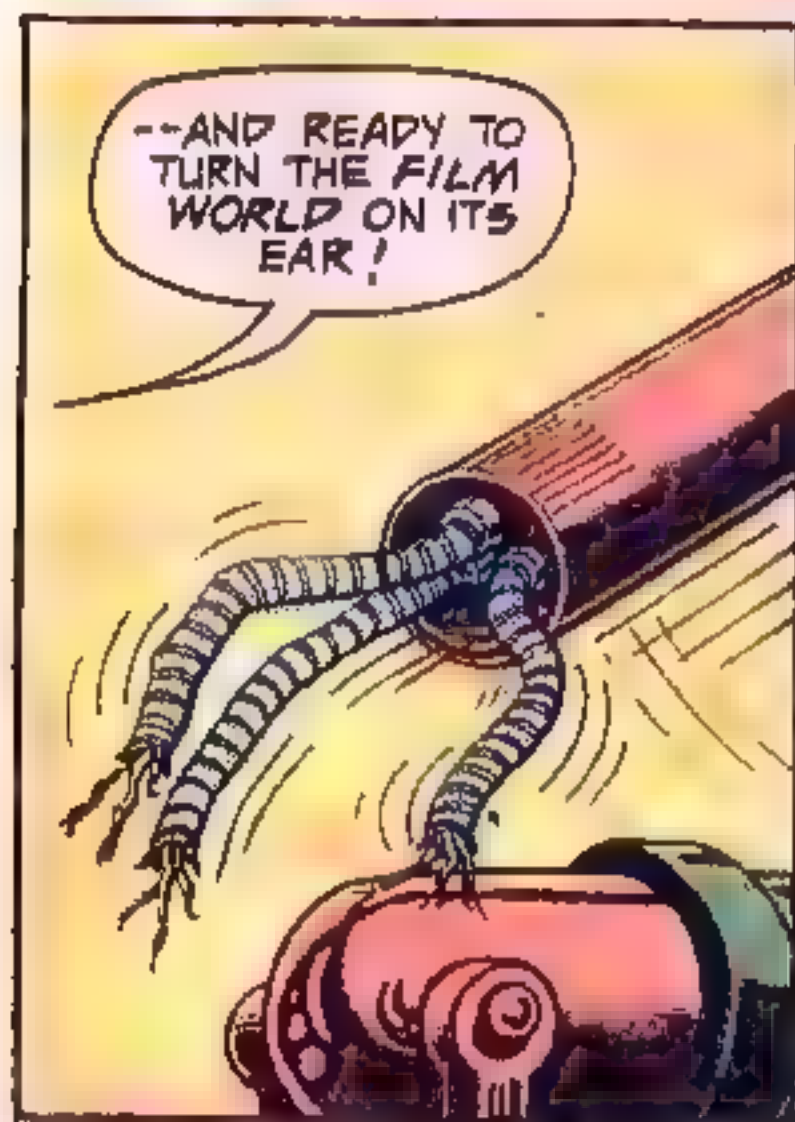
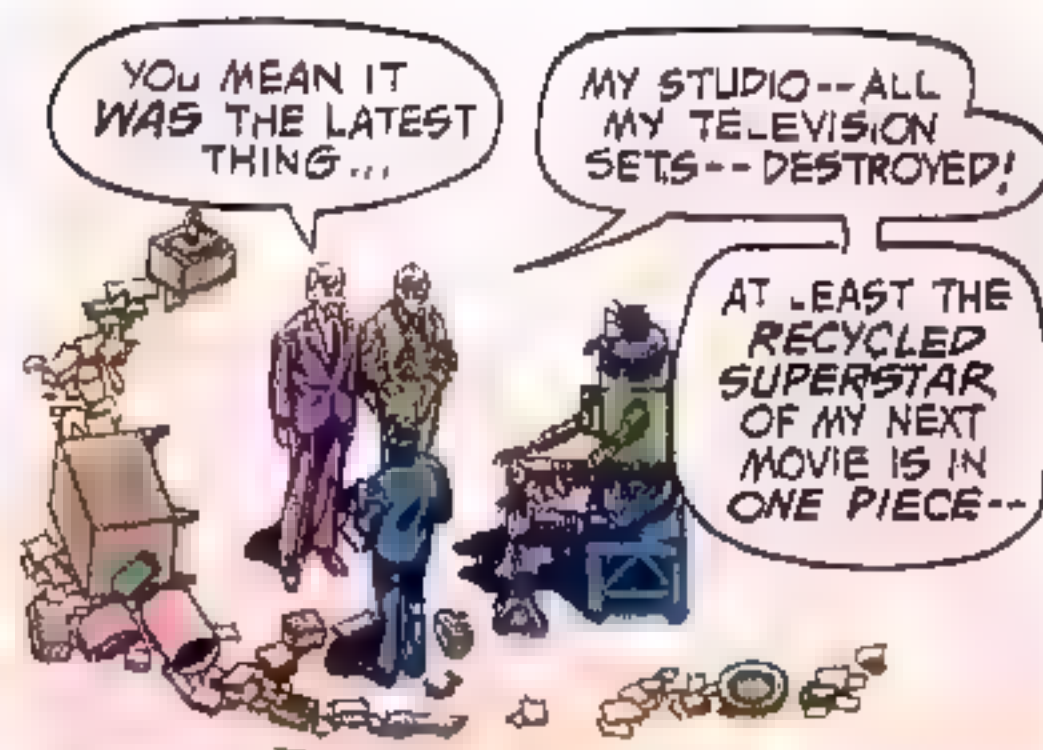
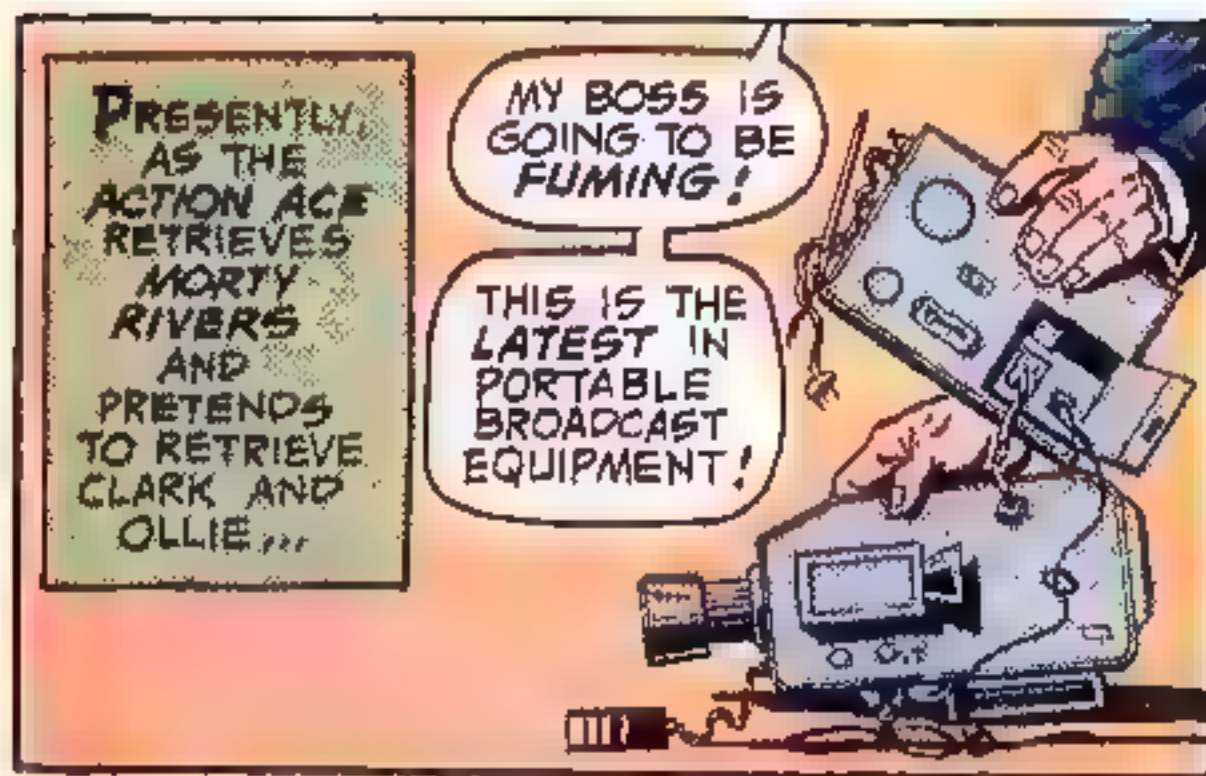
DONE! ALL THAT'S
LEFT IS TO CATCH THE
FALLING DEBRIS...

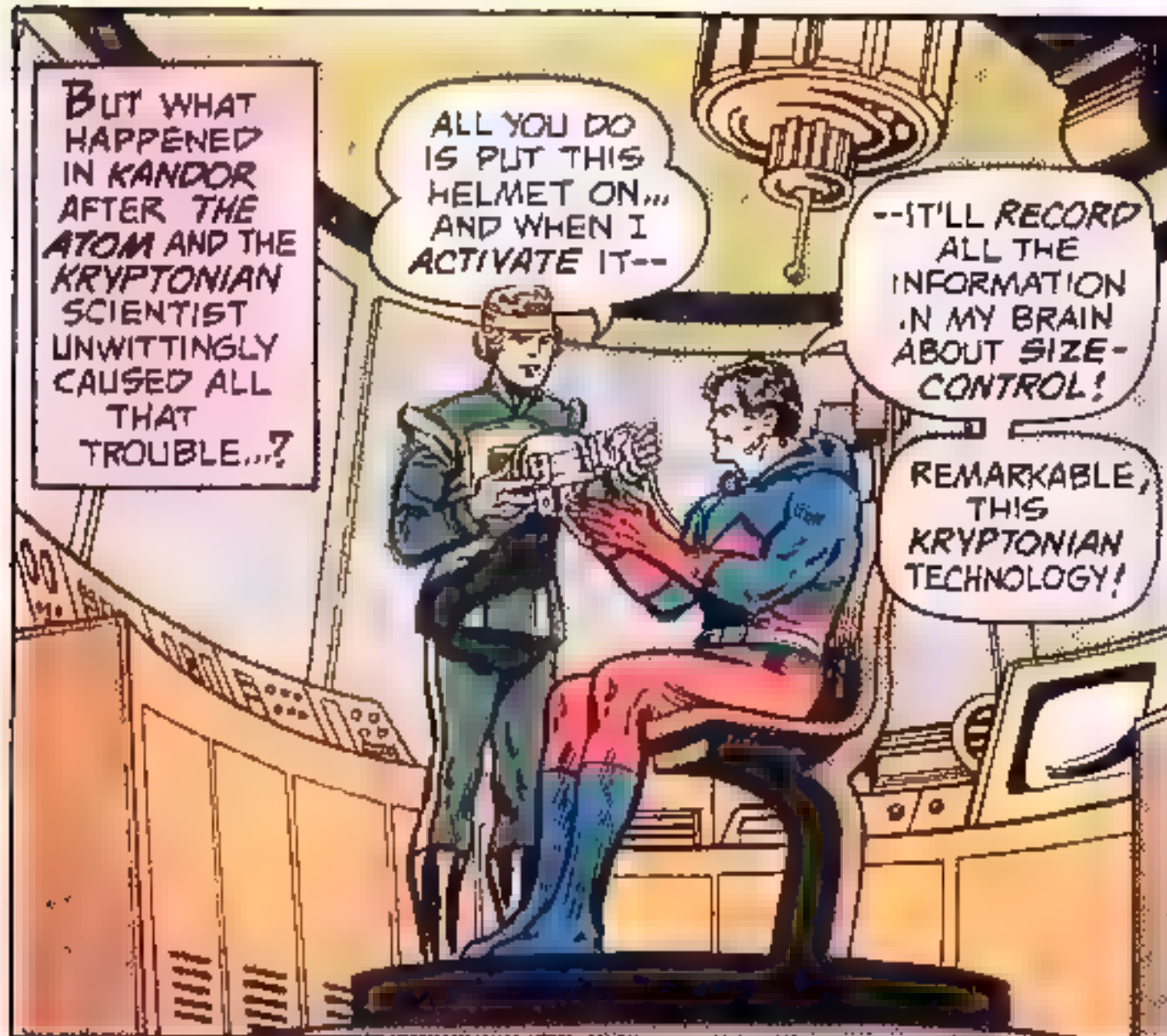
...AND THANK
GREEN ARROW
FOR GIVING ME
A BREATH!

MY JUNKMAN...
MY SUPERSTAR!

HE'S USING MY CREATION
TO SHORT OUT ALL THE
TV SETS!

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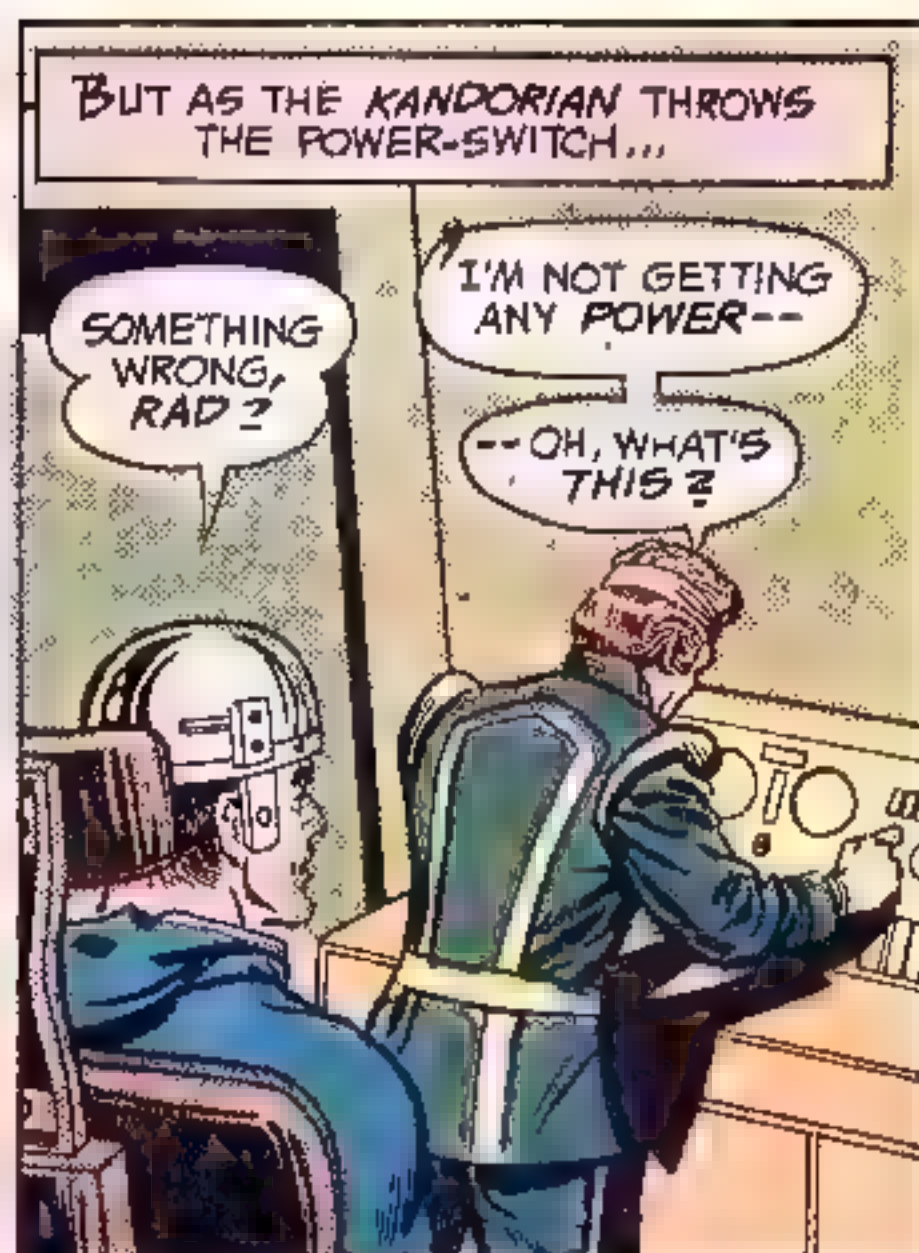


BUT WHAT HAPPENED IN KANDOR AFTER THE ATOM AND THE KRYPTONIAN SCIENTIST UNWITTINGLY CAUSED ALL THAT TROUBLE...?

ALL YOU DO IS PUT THIS HELMET ON... AND WHEN I ACTIVATE IT--

--IT'LL RECORD ALL THE INFORMATION IN MY BRAIN ABOUT SIZE-CONTROL!

REMARKABLE, THIS KRYPTONIAN TECHNOLOGY!

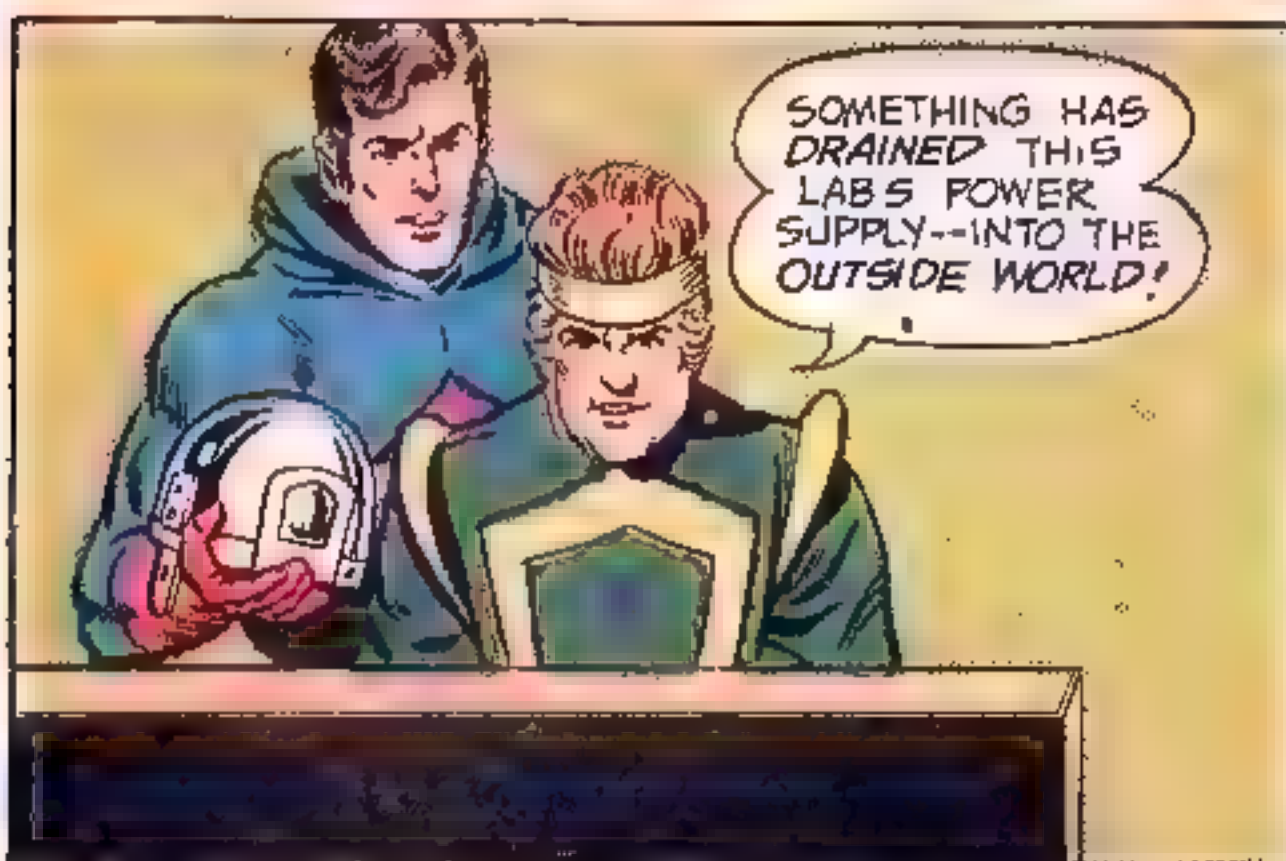


BUT AS THE KANDORIAN THROWS THE POWER-SWITCH...

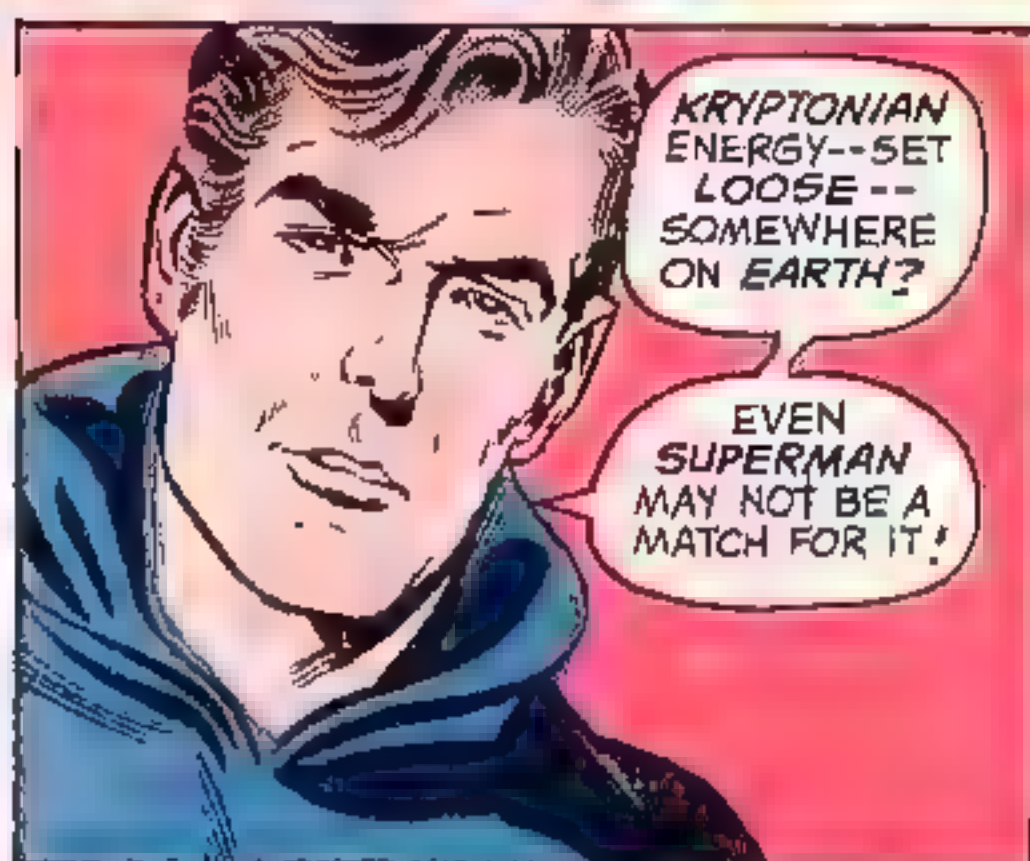
SOMETHING WRONG, RAD?

I'M NOT GETTING ANY POWER--

--OH, WHAT'S THIS?

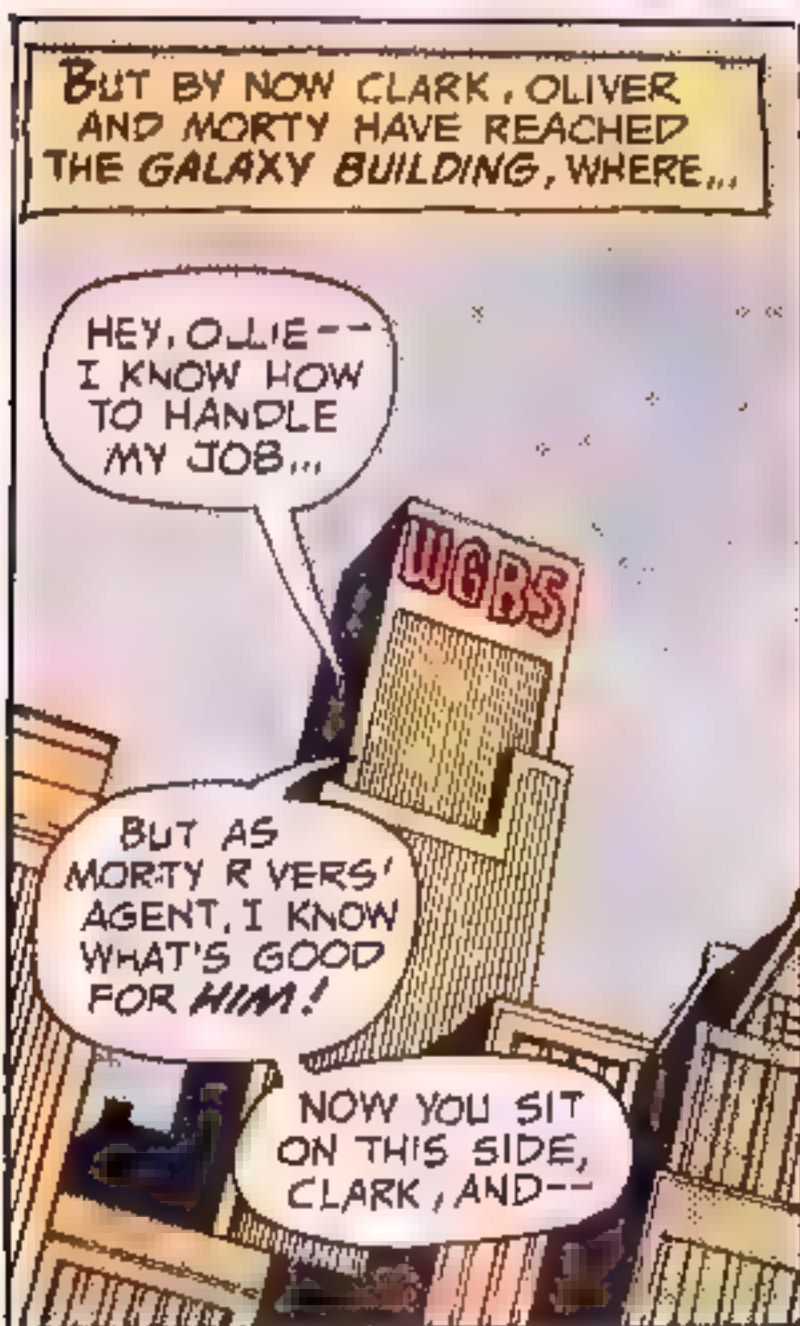


SOMETHING HAS DRAINED THIS LAB'S POWER SUPPLY--INTO THE OUTSIDE WORLD!



KRYPTONIAN ENERGY--SET LOOSE--SOMEWHERE ON EARTH?

EVEN SUPERMAN MAY NOT BE A MATCH FOR IT!

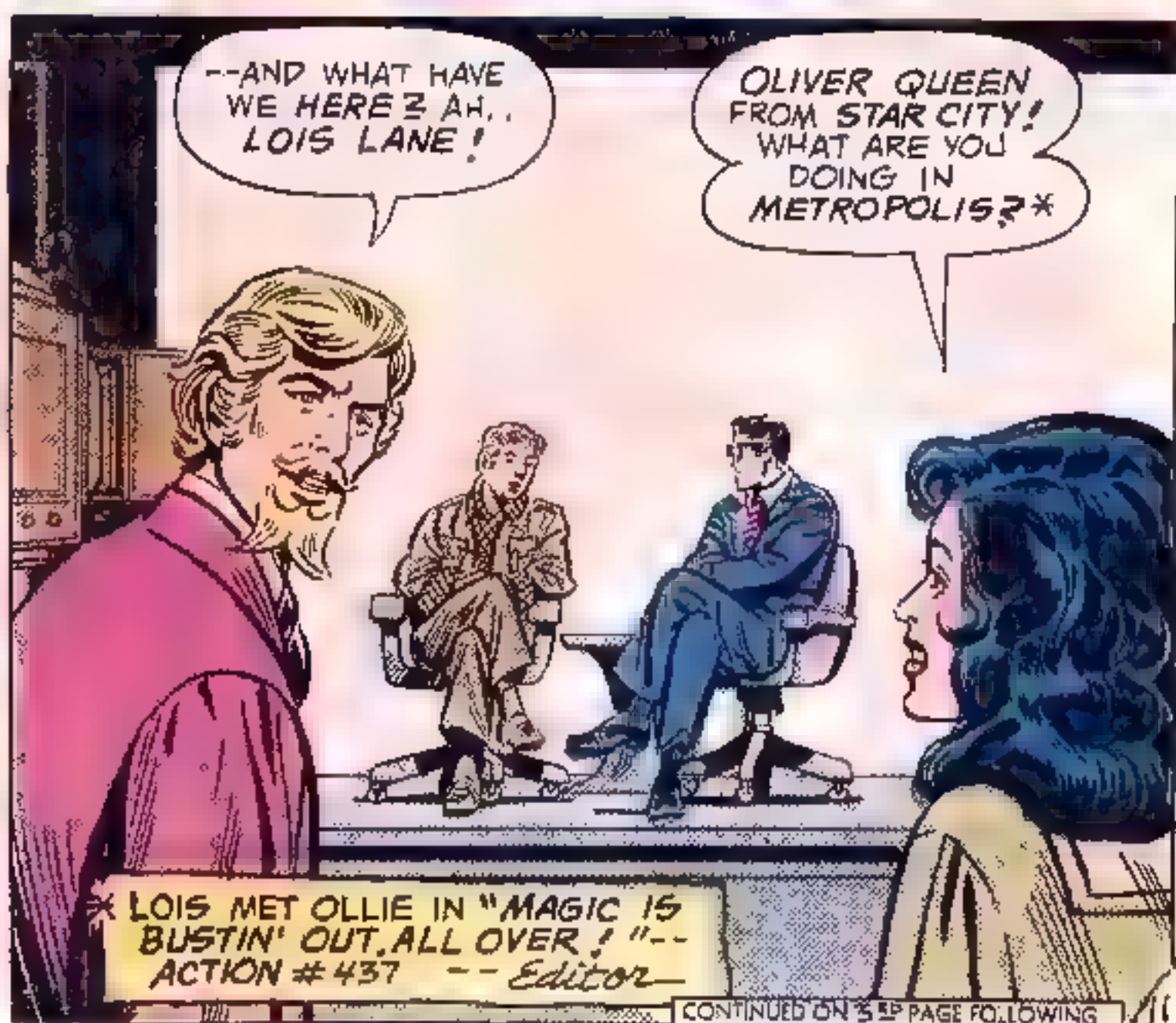


BUT BY NOW CLARK, OLIVER AND MORTY HAVE REACHED THE GALAXY BUILDING, WHERE...

HEY, OLLIE-- I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE MY JOB...

BUT AS MORTY R VERS' AGENT, I KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR HIM!

NOW YOU SIT ON THIS SIDE, CLARK, AND--

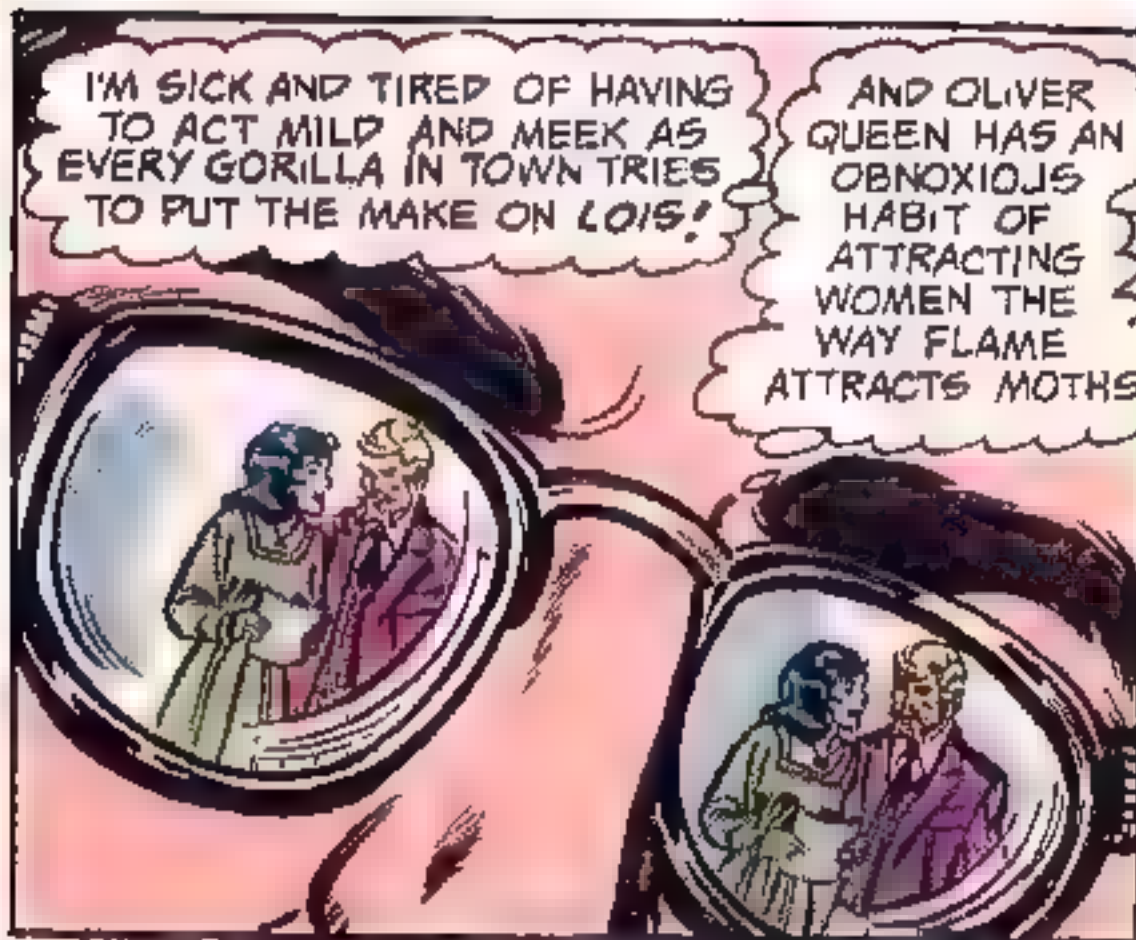


--AND WHAT HAVE WE HERE? AH, LOIS LANE!

OLIVER QUEEN FROM STAR CITY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN METROPOLIS?*

* LOIS MET OLLIE IN "MAGIC IS BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER!" -- ACTION # 437 -- Editor

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING



I'M SICK AND TIRED OF HAVING TO ACT MILD AND MEEK AS EVERY GORILLA IN TOWN TRIES TO PUT THE MAKE ON LOIS!

AND OLIVER QUEEN HAS AN OBNOXIOUS HABIT OF ATTRACTING WOMEN THE WAY FLAME ATTRACTS MOTHS!



OLLIE'S SUPPOSED TO BE MY FRIEND--

--AND HE SHOULD KNOW BETTER!

OH, YOU'RE BRINGING THAT ASSIGNMENT LIST TO CLARK?

LHH... YES... THE ASSIGNMENT SHEET... FROM MR. EDGE!



AS A THIN BEAM OF HEAT VISION--SYMBOLIZING VERY, VERY RESTRAINED SUPER-JEALOUSY--CUTS ACROSS THE ROOM--

WELL, PRETTY LADY, I'LL PERSONALLY GIVE THAT TO GOOD OL' CLARK--



IT.. RIPPED?!?

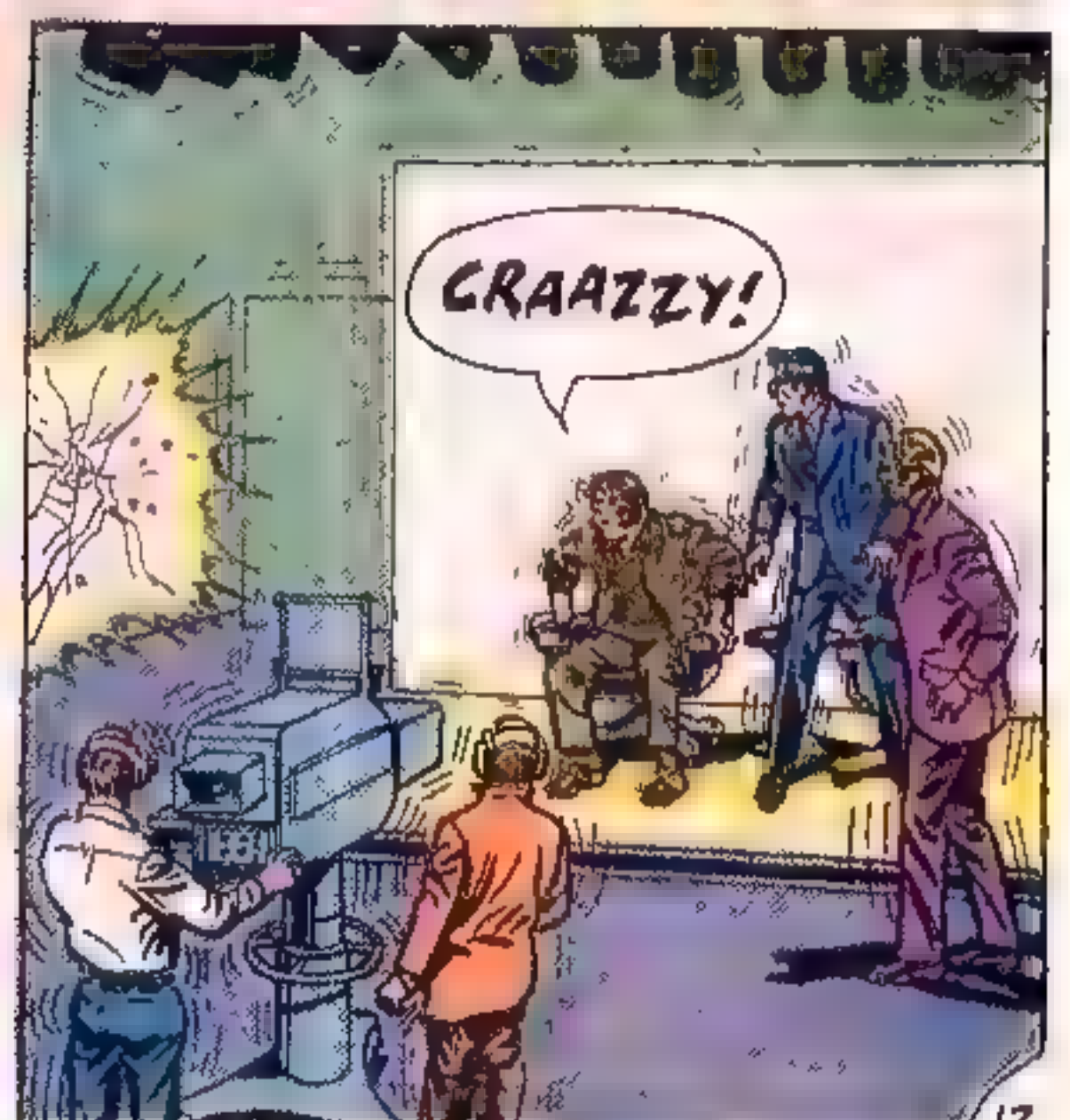
UHH-- SORRY I...UH... DID THAT, LOIS!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! CLARK'S CLUMSINESS IS CONTAGIOUS!

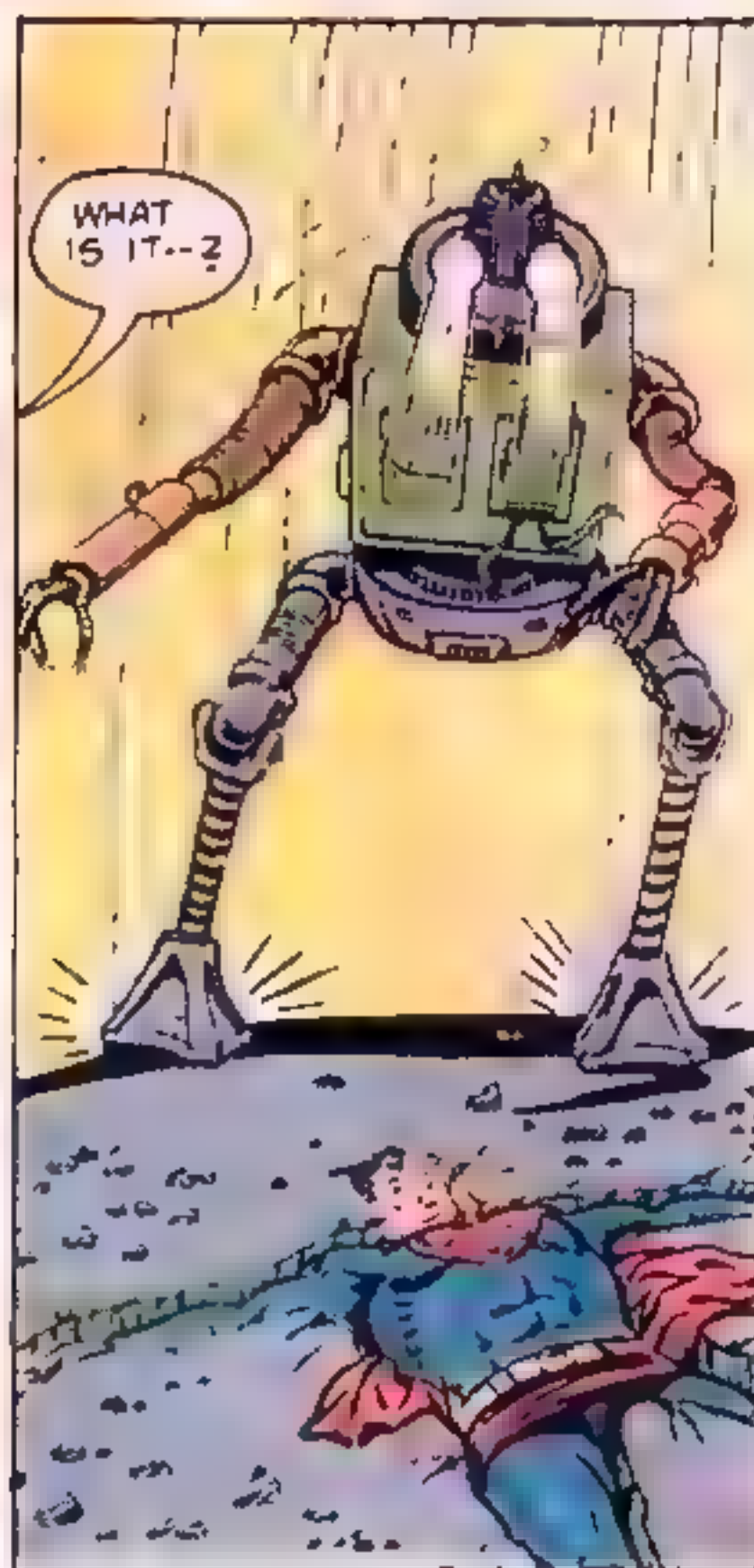
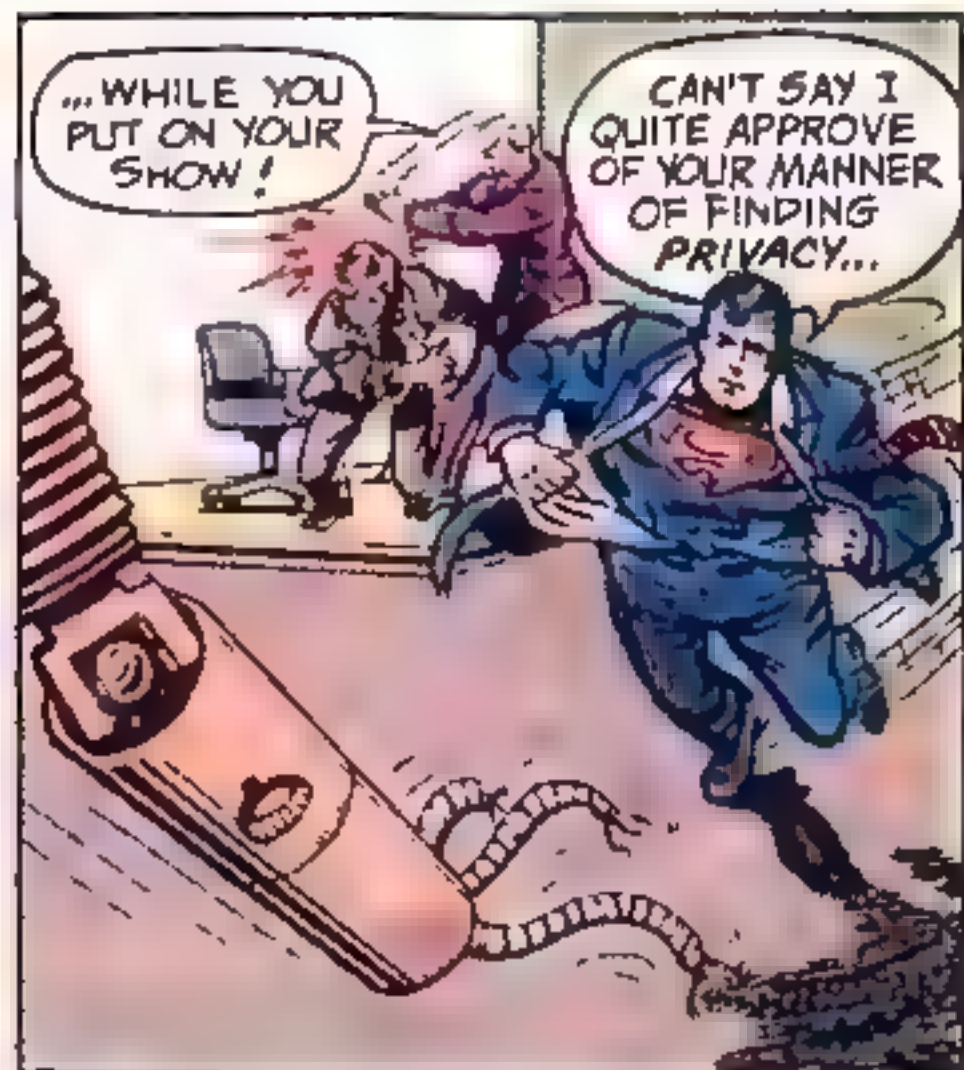
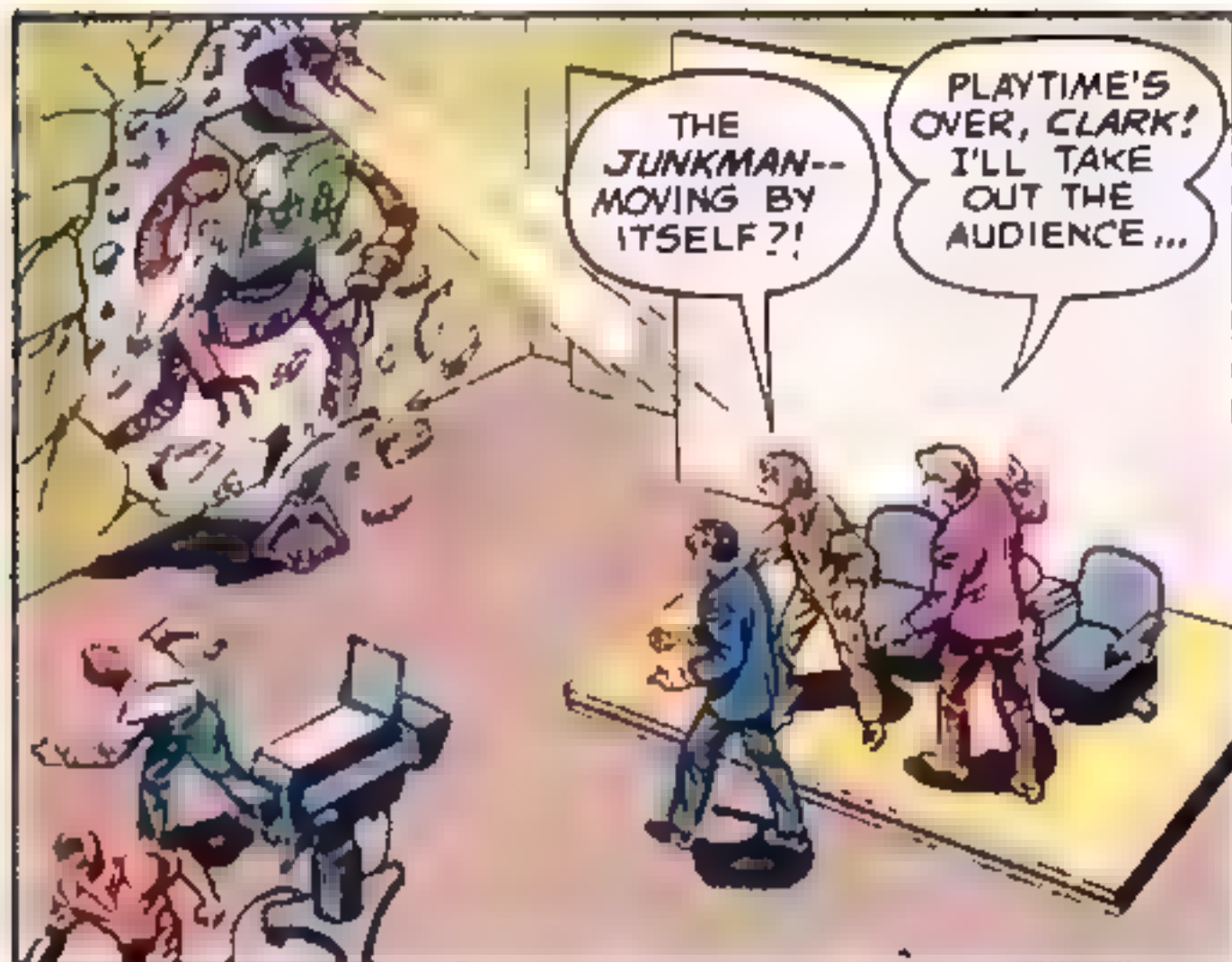


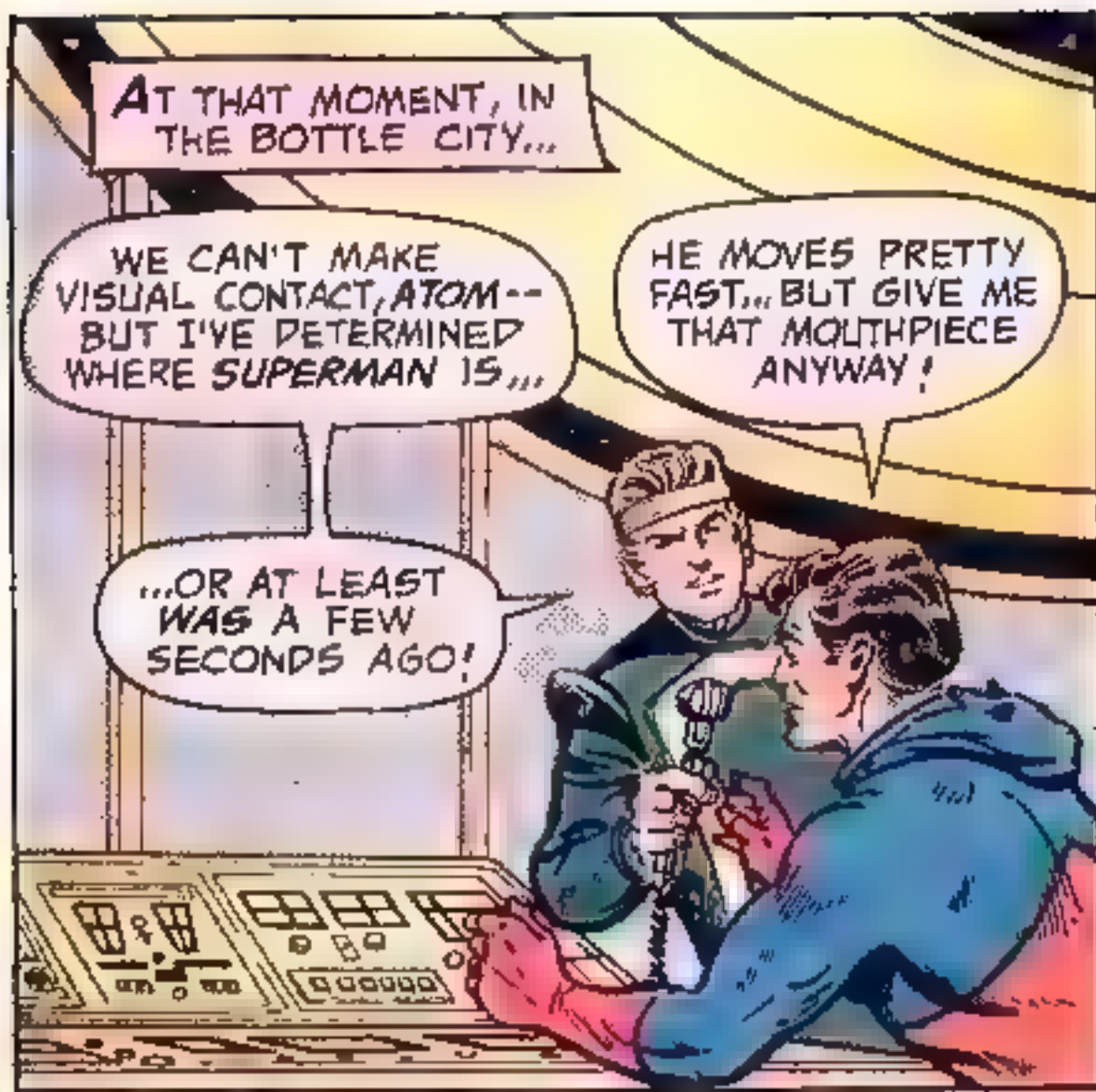
YOU MADE IT LOOK LIKE I RIPPED THAT JUST TO--

SAY-- DO YOL GUYS HEAR ANYTHING...?



CRAAZZY!



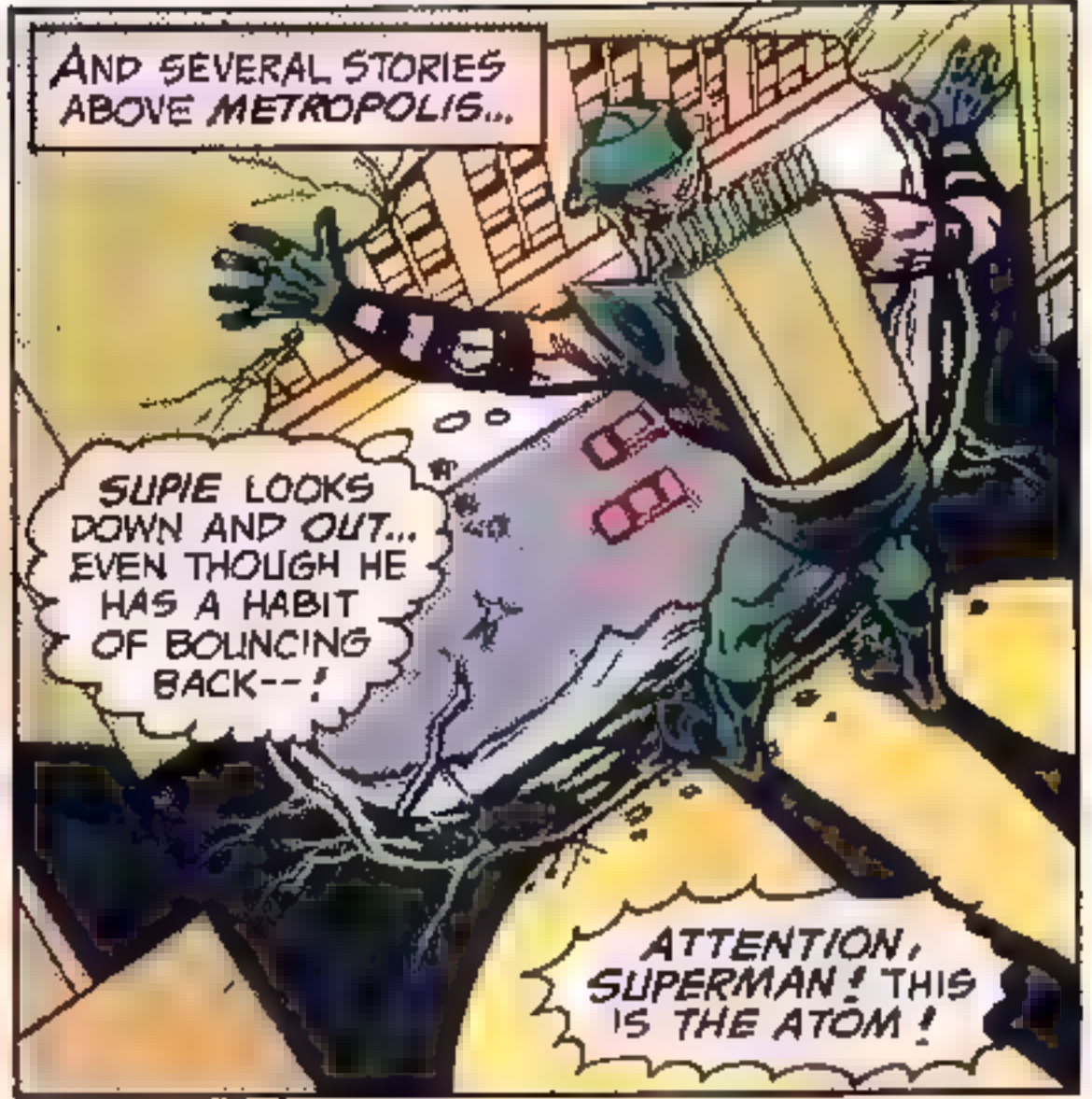


AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE BOTTLE CITY...

WE CAN'T MAKE VISUAL CONTACT, ATOM-- BUT I'VE DETERMINED WHERE SUPERMAN IS...

HE MOVES PRETTY FAST... BUT GIVE ME THAT MOUTHPIECE ANYWAY!

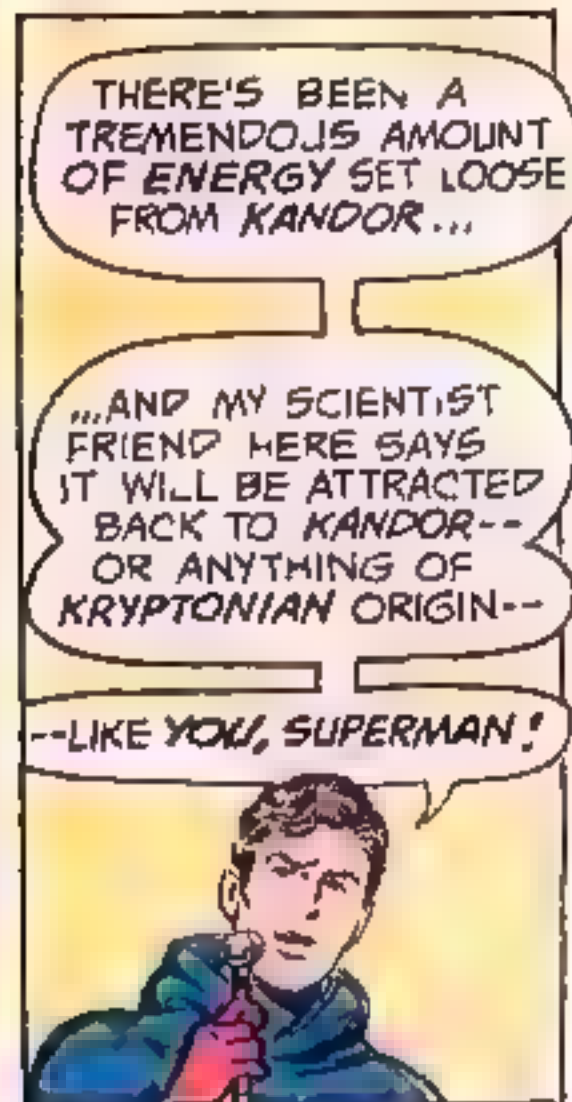
...OR AT LEAST WAS A FEW SECONDS AGO!



AND SEVERAL STORIES ABOVE METROPOLIS...

SUPIE LOOKS DOWN AND OUT... EVEN THOUGH HE HAS A HABIT OF BOUNCING BACK--!

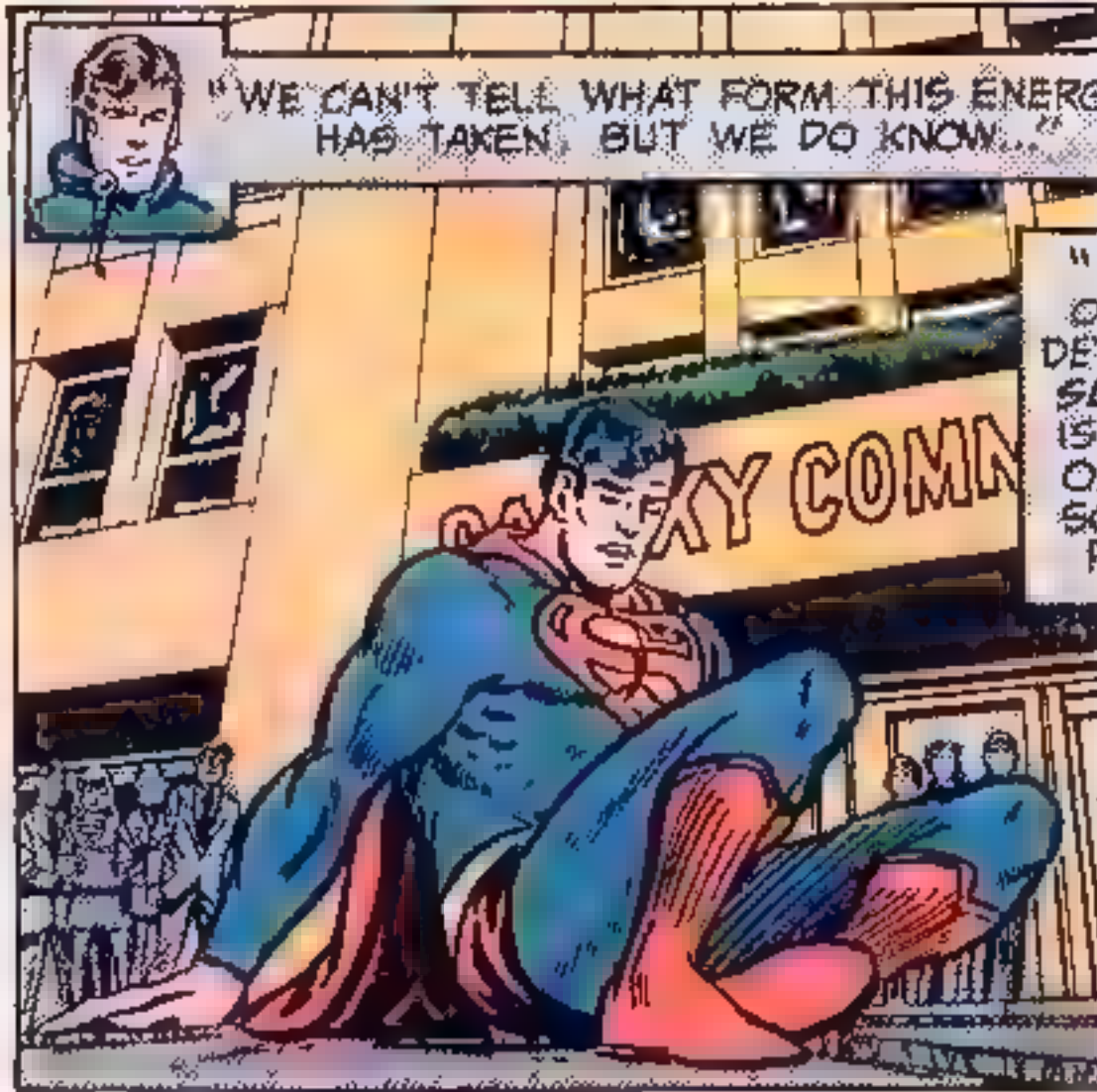
ATTENTION, SUPERMAN! THIS IS THE ATOM!



THERE'S BEEN A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF ENERGY SET LOOSE FROM KANDOR...

...AND MY SCIENTIST FRIEND HERE SAYS IT WILL BE ATTRACTED BACK TO KANDOR-- OR ANYTHING OF KRYPTONIAN ORIGIN--

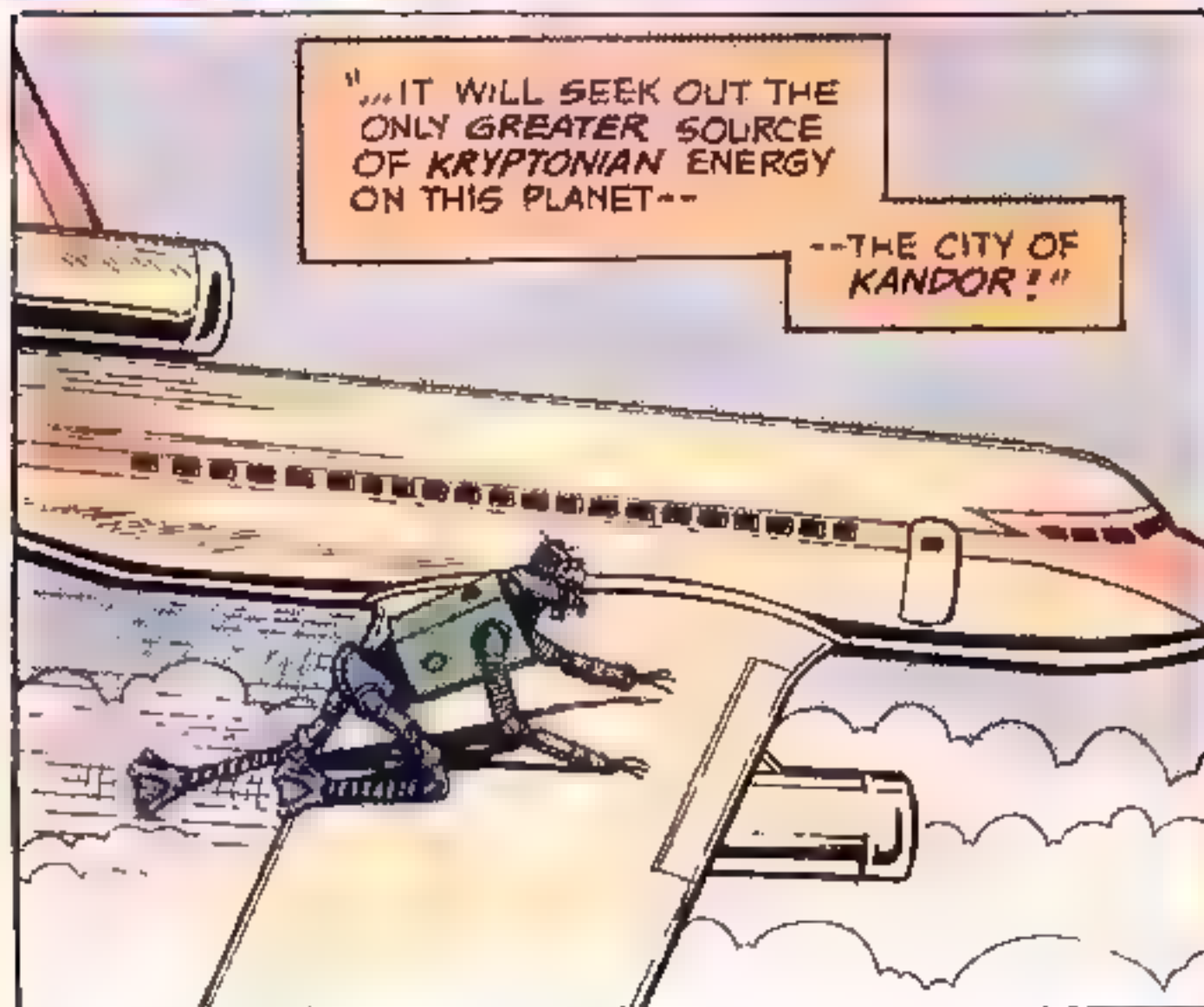
--LIKE YOU, SUPERMAN!



"WE CAN'T TELL WHAT FORM THIS ENERGY HAS TAKEN, BUT WE DO KNOW..."

"...THAT ONCE IT DETERMINES SUPERMAN IS NOT ITS ORIGINAL SOURCE OF POWER..."

SUPIE'S OUT FOR THE COUNT-- SO I'VE GOTTA PLAY MESSENGER BOY FOR PINT-SIZE!



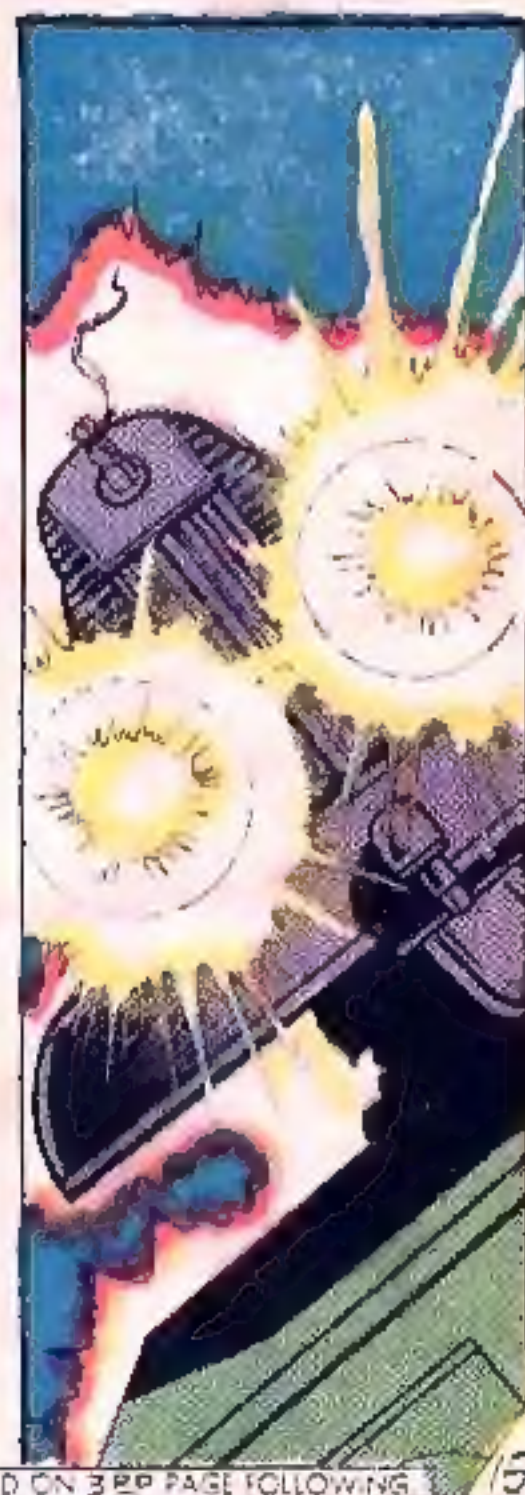
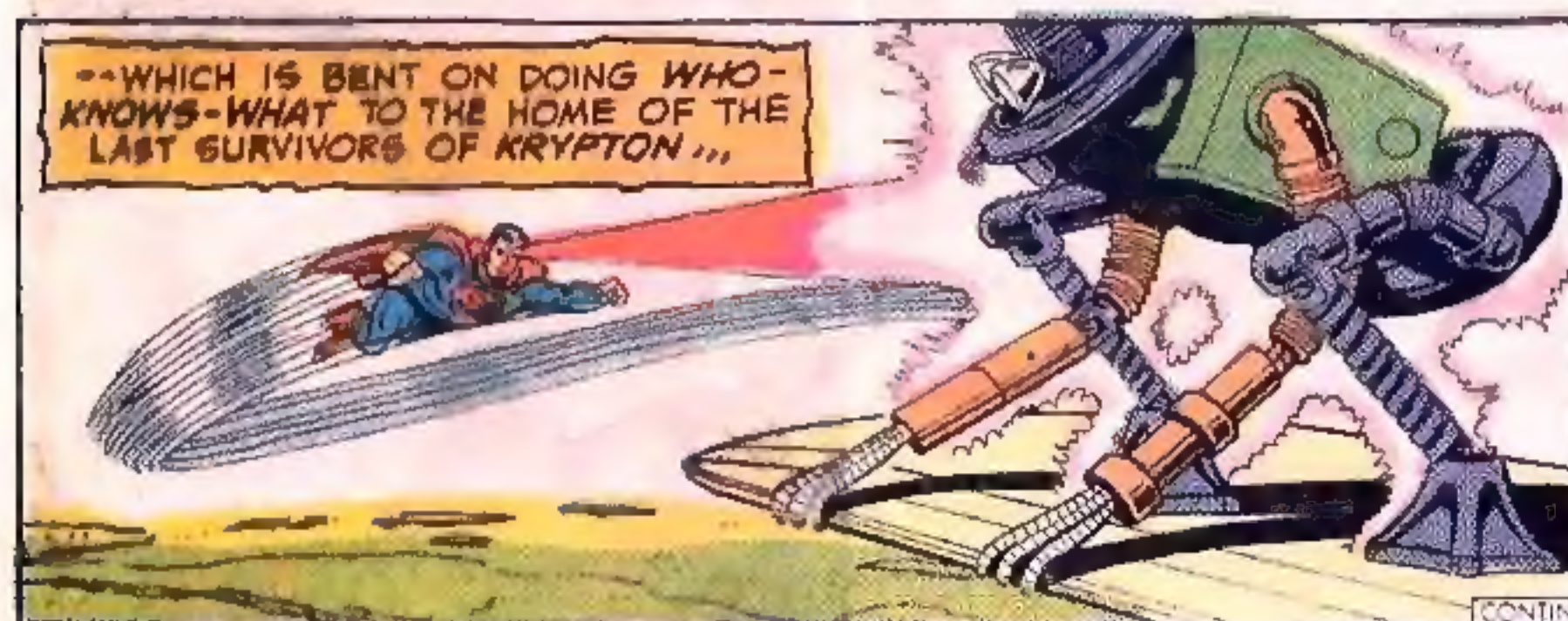
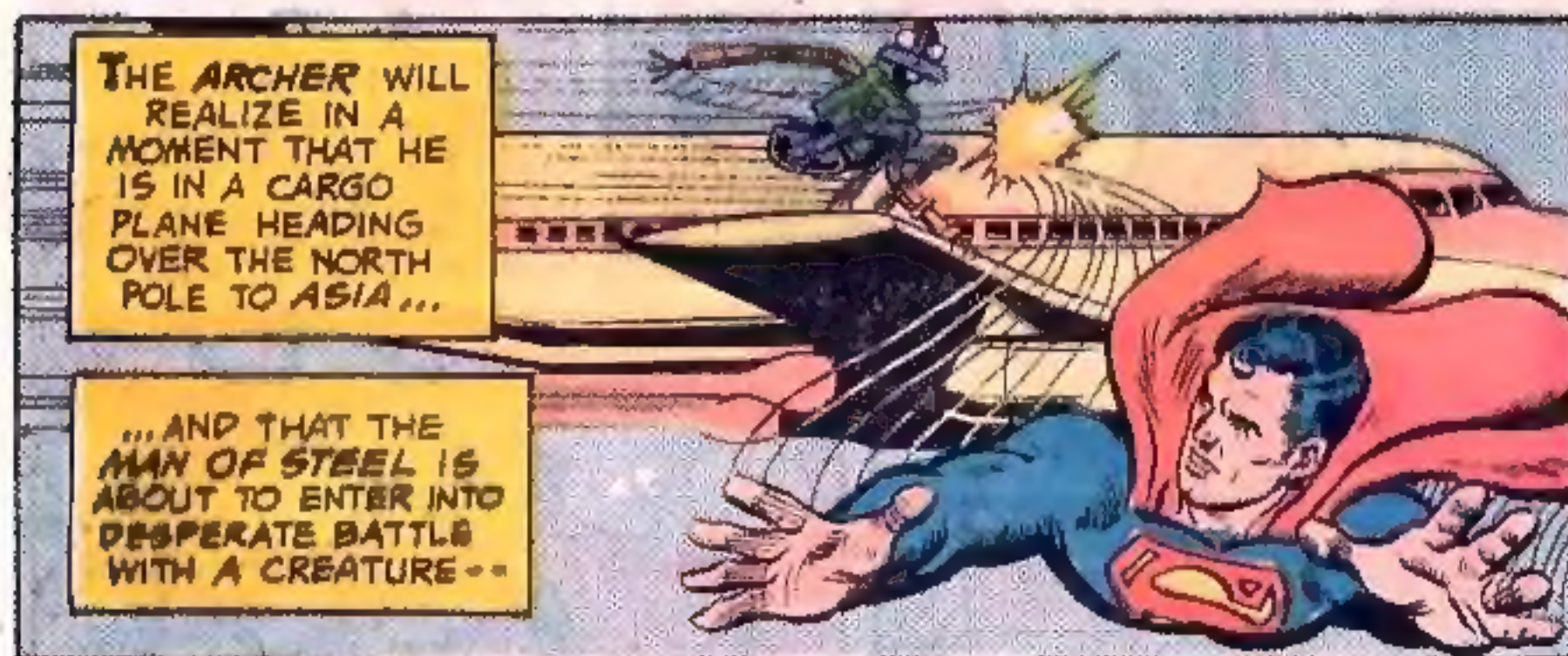
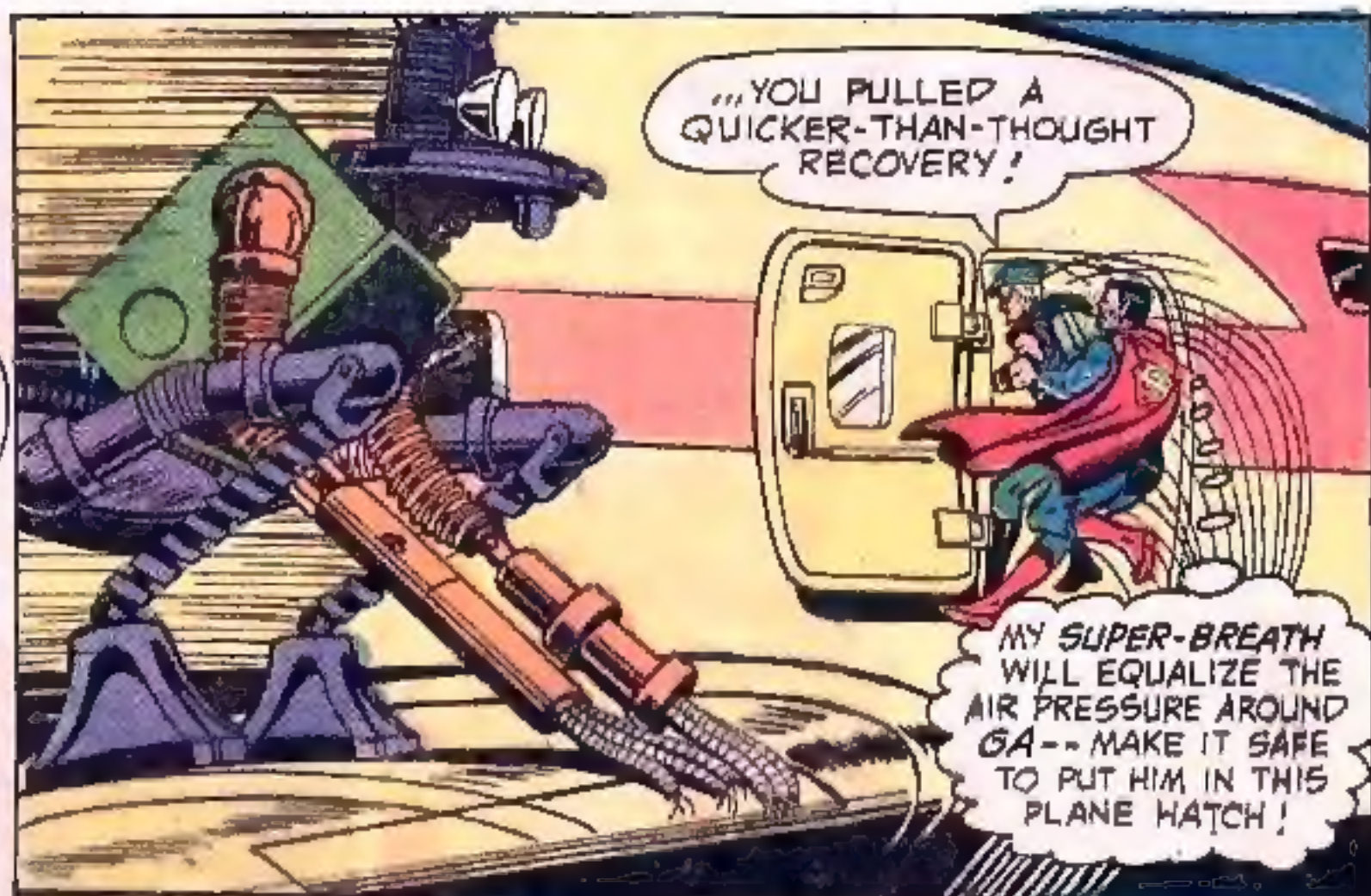
"...IT WILL SEEK OUT THE ONLY GREATER SOURCE OF KRYPTONIAN ENERGY ON THIS PLANET--

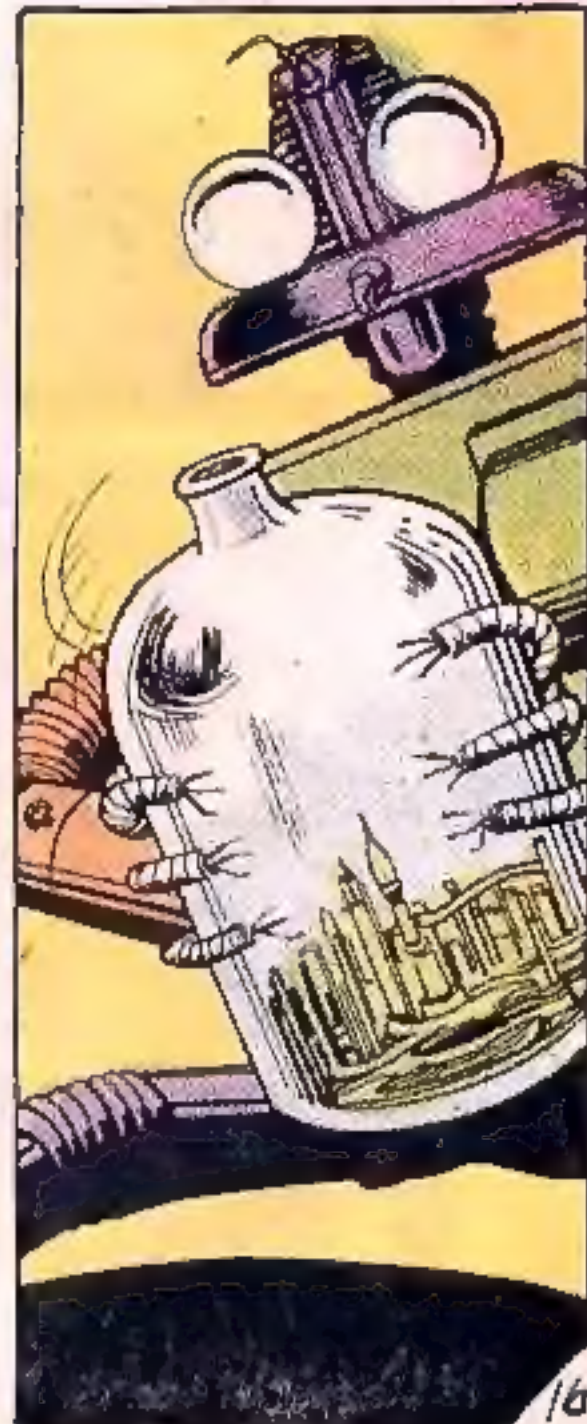
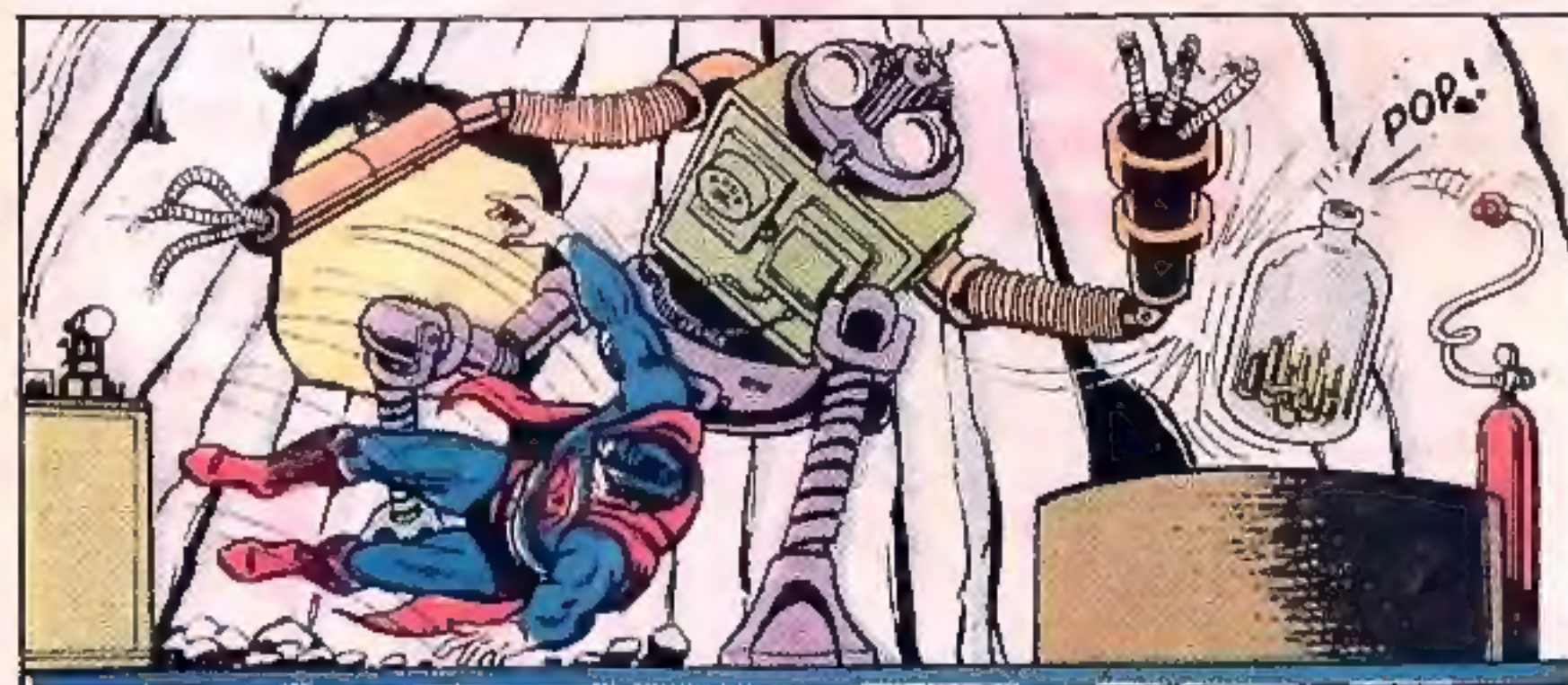
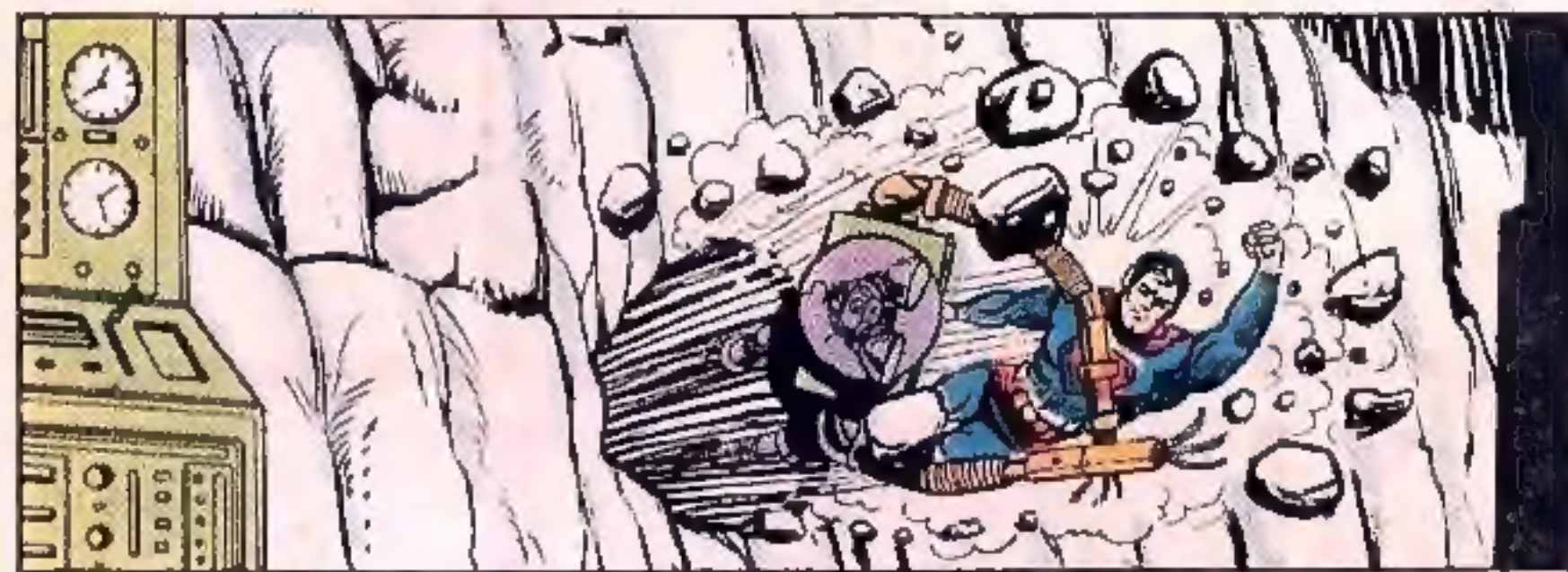
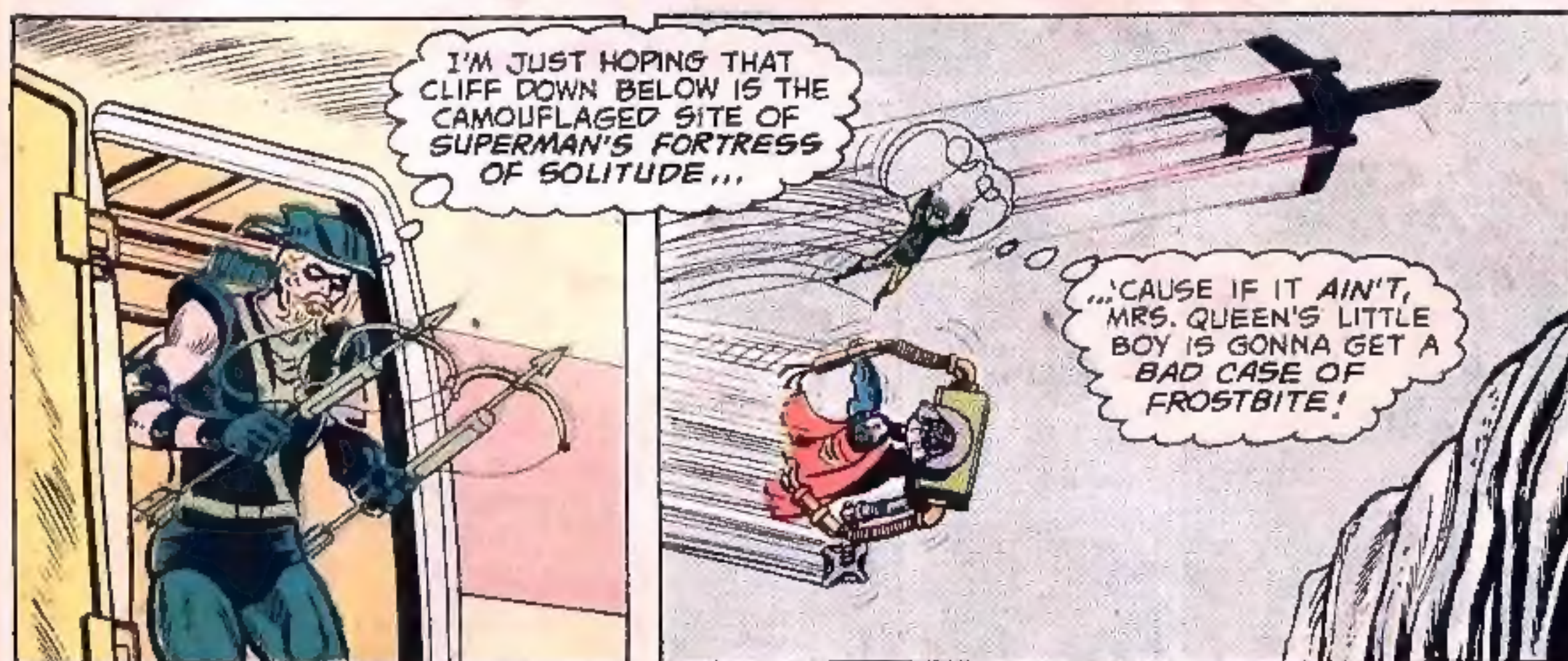
--THE CITY OF KANDOR!"

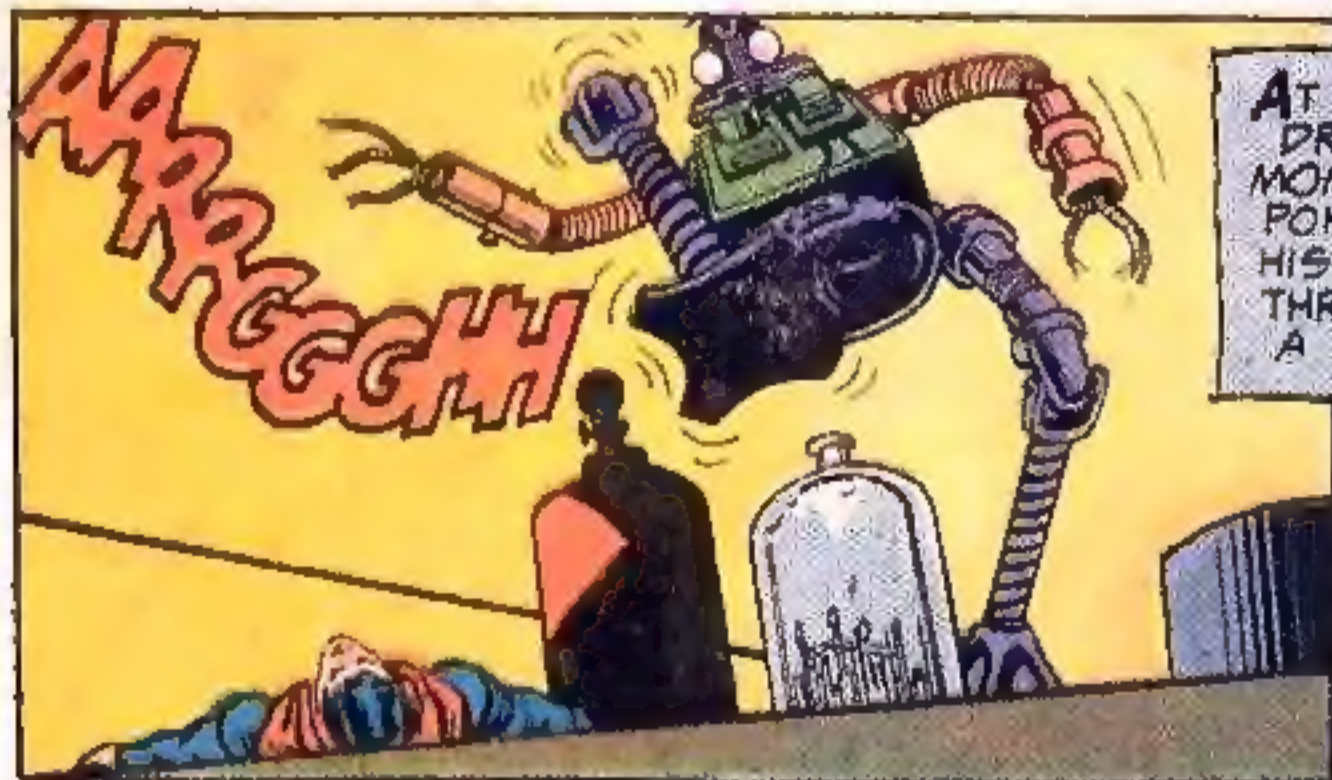


SUPERMAN-- GET MOVING!

THAT JUNK-THING'S OFF AFTER KANDOR-- AND IF YOU DON'T CHASE T DOWN, THE WHOLE BLASTED BOTTLE WILL BE--







AT THAT
DREAD
MOMENT,
POKING
HIS HEAD
THROUGH
A DOOR...



GOOD THING I'VE
BEEN HERE BEFORE*
AND KNEW WHERE
TO FIND KANDOR!

LORD ABOVE!
THAT THING'S
GONNA STOMP
THE BOTTLE-
CITY...

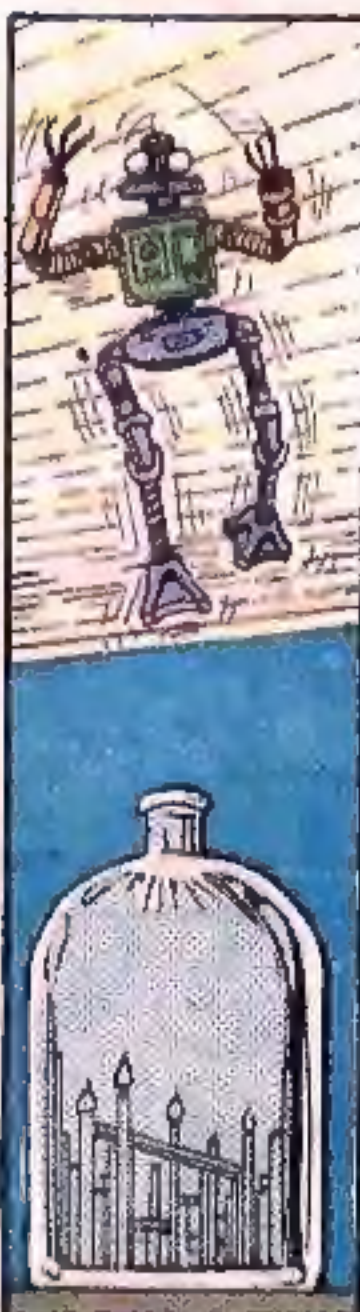
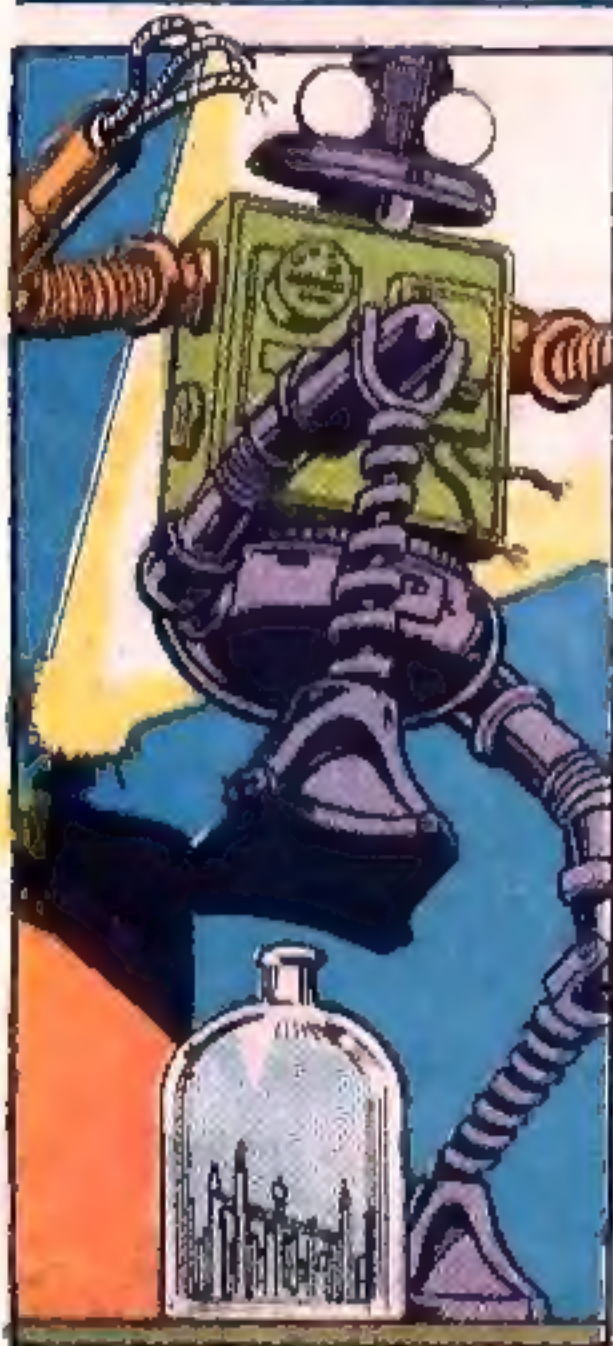
*IN JUSTICE LEAGUE
#122-- Editor



...UNLESS...

ZZING

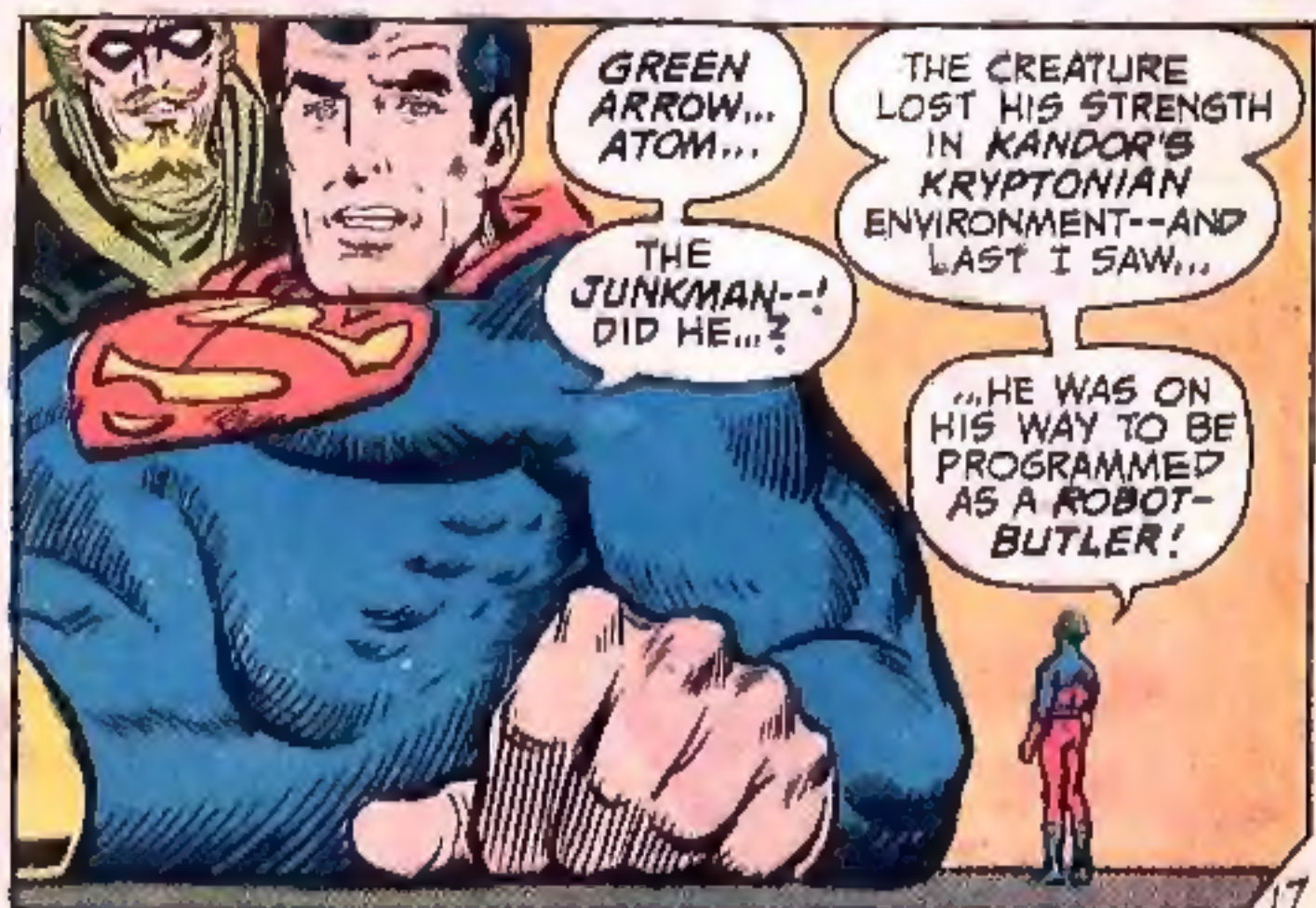
CLICK



HEY, SUPES--
FINALLY
COMING
AROUND,
HUH?

SURE YOU DID,
ARROW--AFTER
SUPERMAN
SET IT UP
FOR YOU!

LISTEN--
YOU WANNA
HEAR HOW I
SAVED A
MILLION
CITIZENS OF
KANDOR...?



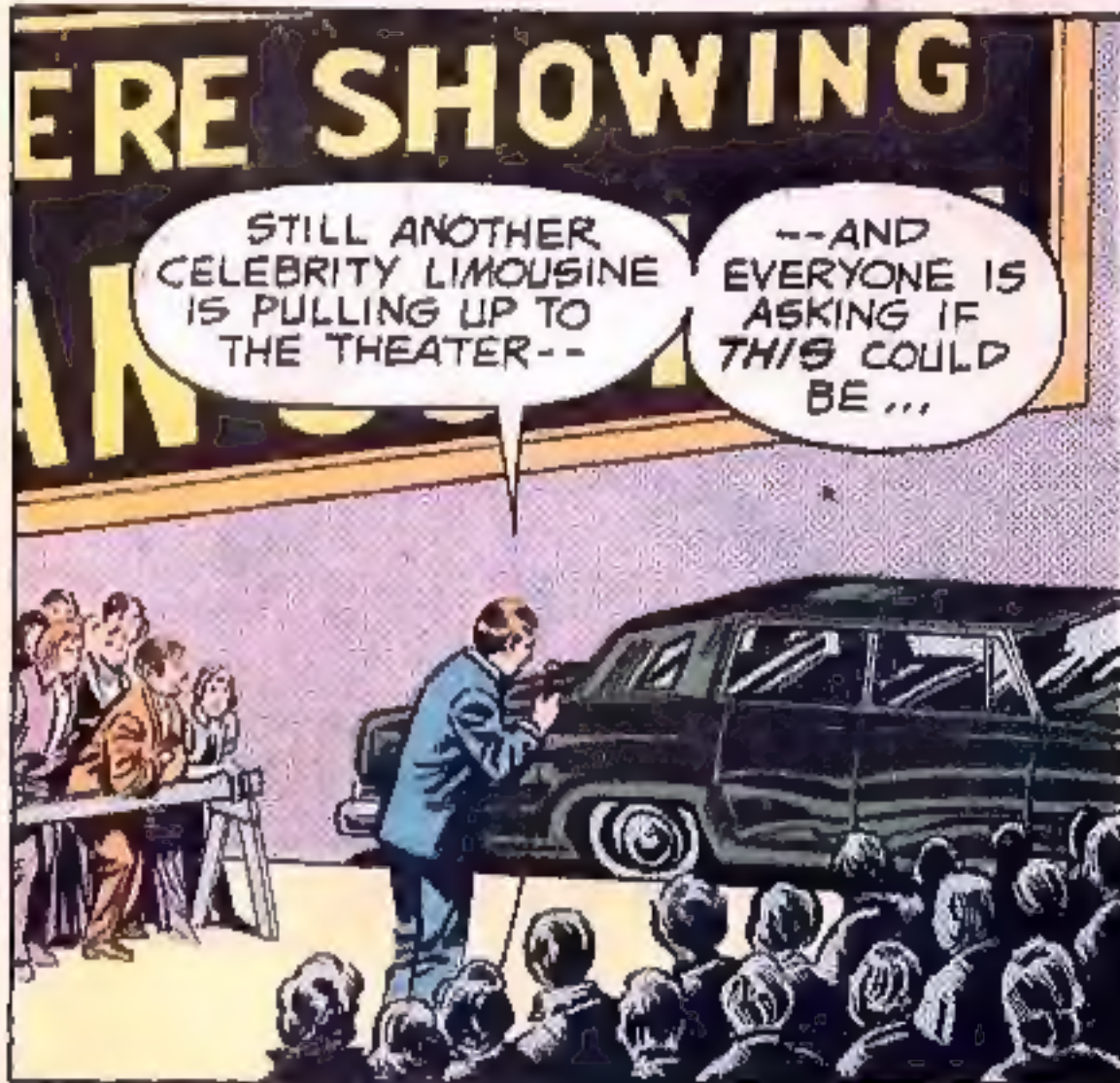
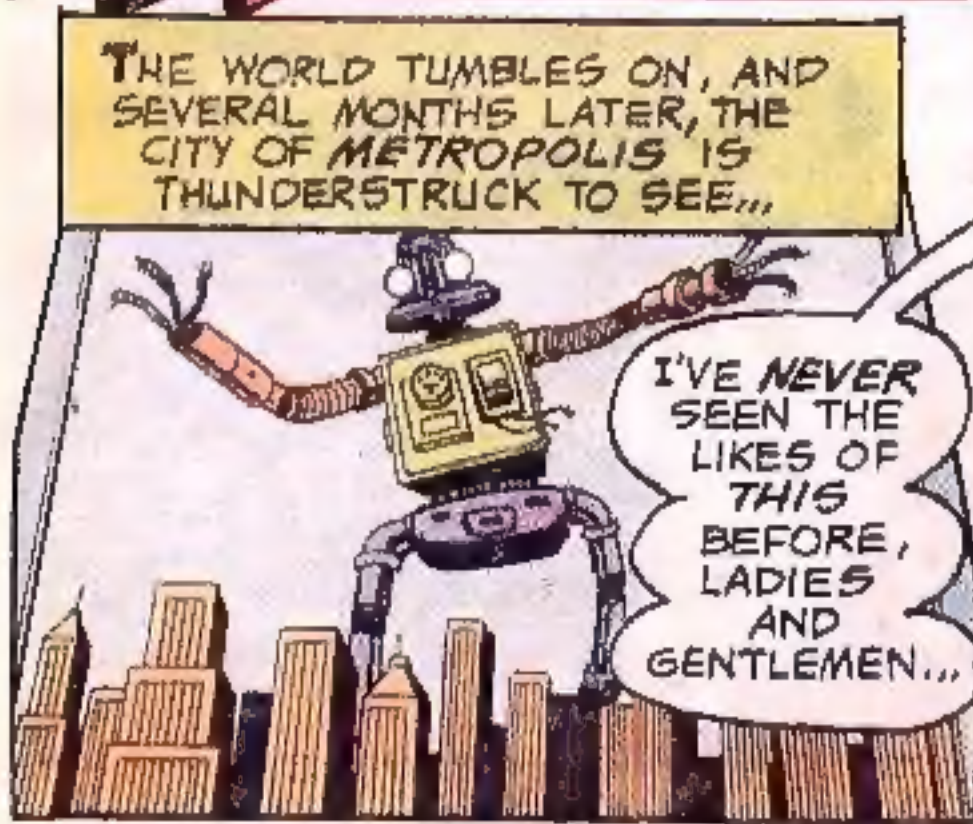
GREEN
ARROW...
ATOM...

THE
JUNKMAN--!
DID HE...?

THE CREATURE
LOST HIS STRENGTH
IN KANDOR'S
KRYPTONIAN
ENVIRONMENT--AND
LAST I SAW...

...HE WAS ON
HIS WAY TO BE
PROGRAMMED
AS A ROBOT-
BUTLER!

EPILOGUE



COMING SUPER
ATTRACTIONS

SUPERMAN
BATTLES A
SUPER-EVOLVED
MENACE TO SAVE
HUMANKIND FROM
"The **JAWS** of the
KILLER SHARK!"
HE WAS ONLY A FISH--BUT
HE BECAME MORE THAN
A MAN!
ALSO

ACTION-PLUS WITH
GREEN ARROW and
BLACK CANARY

ACTION #456--FEB., 1976
ON SALE LAST WEEK IN NOVEMBER!